

Dream trip:  
the editor  
reports on her  
visit to China  
• Page 5



**Election news**  
Albany council candidates  
talk about their ideas  
Page 13

This author  
has always  
had trains  
on the brain  
• Page 6



# TIMES JOURNAL

Serving Albany - El Cerrito - Kensington - Thousand Oaks

VOLUME 5 ★

ALBANY-EL CERRITO, CALIFORNIA WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28, 1984

★ NO. 26

## Boyfriend on Albany stage

By JIM GRODKIN

ALBANY — Although he has the smallest part in Albany High School's "The Boyfriend," Joe Good, 16, never misses a rehearsal.

On the other hand, as one of the female leads, Dominique Poree, 17, can't miss a rehearsal. But for each person in the 30-member cast, no matter the size of the part, there's a thrill in the hours of preparation for the school's annual spring musical.

And then there's the big payoff of the performance itself. The annual production, now in its 15th year, has become an Albany High School tradition.

This year's play, "The Boyfriend," by Sandy Wilson, is a Roaring Twenties comedy set on the French Riviera. It's a fast-paced farce centered around the romances of the young women who attend Madame Dubonnet's School for Girls.

Good, who is in a physics and calculus honors program, has no illusions about his singing ability. Last year, in "The Music Man," he had six, small speaking roles. Again this year, he is cast only in speaking parts, as a waiter and a gendarme.

Although Good isn't in the first act, and has less stage time than any other cast member, he's at nearly all of the weekly 25 hours of rehearsal. "It's lots of fun working with the cast," he said. "I just like to see how we're getting along."



Brian Chamberlain and Stacey Westphal  
kick up their heels

Poree, a senior transfer student from Miramonte High in Orinda, was reluctant to even try out for the play. Until a Christmas concert last December, she had not sung a solo since the sixth grade.

One of her teachers was impressed by her effort and persuaded her to audition for the musical. She landed the part of Polly Browne.

"I'm having a great time," she said. "Everybody's getting wound up."

(Continued on Page 2)



Photos by Frank Westphal

Cast members include (back, l.-r.), Dominique Poree, Hari Boukis, Pieter Snapper, Debbie Hein; (front, l.-r.), Cassie Henry, Brian Chamberlain and Stacey Westphal.

## Colusa development fight isn't over yet

By JIM GRODKIN

KENSINGTON — Foes of the Colusa Circle shopping center haven't given up their battle to stop construction of the project.

Bill Johnston, president of the Colusa-Arlington Neighborhood Association, said his group has appealed a recent ruling in which Superior Court Judge Edward Merrill gave the project the green light.

The appeal, which was filed in Martinez on March 16, second attempt to halt developer Edward Hammonds' three-phase project on Colusa Avenue.

Hammonds reacted to latest legal salvo from neighborhood opponents by saying, "I'm not concerned about it. He said architects are currently drawing up plans, and county approval is forthcoming, ground-breaking will begin in as little as two months.

Johnston said the neighborhood organization has invested \$10,000 in legal fees opposing the project, and is

now out of funds. A block sale on April 28 is being planned to help pay legal expenses.

Because of the financial pinch, the group is attempting to find an attorney to represent them at no charge. Mark Weinberger, who is still the attorney of record, said, "I feel the judge's decision is wrong, and there's a substantial chance of vindication in court."

Hammonds would set not a dollar value on what attorneys have cost him so far, saying only, "It's very expensive. It's ridiculous for either side to be paying expensive legal fees."

In December, Judge Merrill denied the neighbors' injunction to halt the project. Merrill ruled that the county had properly given the project the go-ahead without requiring an environmental impact report. He said also that the impact of traffic and parking had been adequately assessed.

(Continued on Page 2)



Ed Hammonds

This author  
has always  
had trains  
on the brain  
• Page 6

## City 'borrows' funds Council says it is just a cash-flow problem

By FRANCES THOMAS

ALBANY — The City Council, facing a cash shortage, has okayed inter-fund loans allowing the city to pay its bills and meet its payroll.

The council voted Monday to allow the finance department to make short-term loans from its insurance funds to its general fund. About \$73,000 will be loaned immediately.

But City Administrator William Haden and Treasurer Jo Ann Conner said the cash-flow problem could be an indication of a long-term financial problem, perhaps meaning personnel cuts or a public safety tax.

The city's self-insurance program began in 1977 and without the council's authorization the insurance money cannot be used to pay routine expenses.

Haden said the cash-flow problem was the result of dwindling tax revenues. He said while the sales tax revenue and the tax revenue from Golden Gate Fields were up, the utility tax, property tax and construction permit taxes were down.

The city, which by law must end the fiscal year in the black, usually has a "dry spell" in the fall before property taxes come in. But Haden said this year the general fund was in the red almost from the beginning of the fiscal year last July.

"It sounds shocking," he said. "But this is something we have been fighting all year."

Dario Meniketti, an Albany resident who attends all council meetings, said the city staff and the council had failed to alert the public to the problem.

"It's malfeasance," Meniketti said. "It is illegal. In order to compensate for these dippings, we should start talking about layoffs."

Mayor Ruth Ganong told Meniketti, "Our problem is cash-flow. It isn't that we're broke."

But Meniketti responded, "You can't cover it up and hope it will go away."

Haden and Connor told the council about the cash-flow problem last week. They said the council was in

(Continued on Page 2)

## The skinny lot is a winner

## EC design awards given

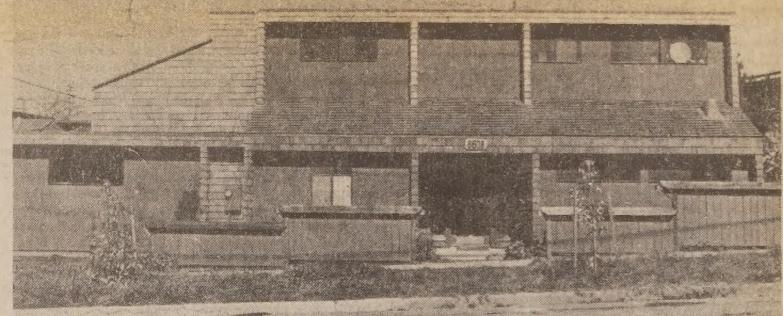


Photo by James Pease

This house had to be thin to fit on a 25 by 128-foot lot in El Cerrito

By DON McCORMACK

EL CERRITO — The challenge was formidable — build a home on a lot 25 feet wide and 128 feet long and find someone to buy it.

Build it on speculation, since the bankers threw up their hands in horror.

Take out a second mortgage on your home and have your partner squeeze another mortgage out of his mother's house.

If no one buys it, dust off the dunce cap and get in the line for food stamps.

Everyone basically told me I was crazy," said Michael Spearth, minutes after the El Cerrito City Council presented him last week with a 1983 design award. "Even the local policeman came by and said we were nuts."

Spearth built the home at 6603 Lincoln Avenue last summer and

within two weeks had an offer and within a month had it sold, but the buyer's financing fell through.

Then in December, Spearth and his partner George Skaates sold the home for \$107,000 to David and Henrietta Perry.

"It's not just like any other house," said David Perry. "It's clever. The wood was individually picked."

Also honored were architects Josie and George Villareal for their four-bedroom home at 8426 Wildcat Drive.

George did the outside, Josie the inside. She said, smiling, "I was looking over his shoulder all the time."

Awards for office rehabilitation were given to dentist Terence Murphy, architect Bruce Dodd and contractor Wilson Allen for Murphy's office at 901 Kearney St.

The landscaping award was bestowed on St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, 11150 San Pablo Ave.

Accepting the award for the St. John volunteers, Joe Dowling said the work was done over two summers by parents and children at St. John's school, which enrolls 295.

"We're not finished yet," he told council members. The landscaping was spread over three years. Next year will be the last year, Dowling said.

Spearth conquered the Lincoln Avenue lot by designing a 16 by 60 foot building that yielded one bedroom, a half a bedroom (a half closet), a kitchen, a bathroom and a half bathroom, a living room and a garage.

The two-story house covers 960-square feet and is built so another room can be added easily over the garage and, if necessary, beyond.

"One thought the lot was buildable," said Spearth, who had to get three variances from El Cerrito before the job could be done.

Perry said the home, which has two skylights, was well-insulated, had some thermal windows and was designed to pick up the southern sun. "Very energy efficient," he summed up.

"Everything inside is quality," said Spearth, an independent contractor. "We sort of got carried away."

Bankers declined to lend him money in part because of the lot size, in part because he was building in an older neighborhood, which is unusual.

(Continued on Page 2)

# Would the landfill make good park for RV's this summer?

By FRANCES THOMAS

**A**LBANY — The city's landfill, a flattened mound of metal, concrete and 20 years of trash, could be turned into a camper park this summer, raising money for the city and offering visitors a camp site with a spectacular view.

Clarke Armstrong, an Albany resident, asked the City Council Monday to investigate the possibility of turning the landfill into a park for recreational vehicles (RV's).

"The view is tremendous and you are going to have thousands of people in the area," Armstrong said. "You can give them a place to stay for \$10 a night and it is a big money-making investment for a small amount."

## BOYFRIEND

(Continued from Page 1)

For Poree, who is also a violinist and graphic artist, one of the pleasures of performing is the camaraderie with the other performers.

"We're like a big family," she said. "I had a fight with my mom and I was upset, but when I got to rehearsal I felt safe and protected."

"The Boy Friend" is co-directed by Philip Rollnick, Albany's choir director, and Virginia Behm, MacGregor High School principal. They are also the producers along with Kirstan Hunsaker.

Beth and Hunsaker direct the choreography; sophomore David McGaw is the production manager.

Mike Goldman, Frank Westphal and Ed Hill helped to design, construct and paint the sets. School librarian Mary Wallman is the rehearsal accompanist.

Others in the cast include:

• Hari Boukis, a senior who is performing in his third musical. In addition to playing Tony Brockhurst, Boukis built most of the sets for the play.

• Cassie Henry, 15, an honor student who will graduate this year. She plays Hortense the maid, a character she described as "an incurable romantic."

## COUNCIL

(Continued from Page 1)

formed as soon as it became clear the city's revenue was not rising in January as it normally did.

"I think the public trusts us to run (city finances) in a prudently fiscal manner, and I think we have done that," Connor told the council.

"I am not satisfied," Meniketti yelled.

The council also voted to have the staff prepare an analysis of the city's taxes, and a comparison with other cities' taxes, which it will review at its budget hearings in June.

In other action, the council voted:

## COLUSA

(Continued from Page 1)

Johnston said his group's appeal is based on the same objections as the original suit.

The neighborhood group objects to the size of the project. They also anticipate that the new businesses will attract patronage from other neighborhoods, causing congestion in Kensington.

The main objection, Johnston said, is to a proposed 120-seat restaurant. Opposition to the 30,000-square foot complex on Colusa Street of Santa Fe and Oak View avenues is also based on fears that new business will not reflect the "character of the neighborhood."

"We're in favor of developing the Circle, but the scale is too large, and parking and traffic problems have not been adequately addressed," Johnston said.

He said also that his group is willing to meet with Hammonds to discuss the project. The two parties met twice before the Aug. 9 suit was filed. According to Hammonds, the neighbors have made no effort to contact him since.

When the project was being evaluated by the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, the neighbors unsuccessfully presented a petition with 880 signatures opposing development. Then, on Aug. 9, they filed suit alleging the county had not followed proper procedures in granting project approval, and that an Environmental Impact Report should have been required.

Plans for the project include 30 shops and offices, the three-story restaurant and bar, and a 39-car parking garage. The \$2.5 million project will add approximately 20,000 square feet of new buildings to Colusa Circle.

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The landfill was closed Jan. 1, 1984 when a 20-year contract with its operator expired. The city plans to close the site and eventually develop it for recreational and commercial use.

But in the meantime Armstrong said the city had "a tremendous possibility" in terms of using the site. Armstrong said since there were no electrical gas or water hookups at the landfill, only energy-efficient campers could use the site.

He also said the city would need to provide 24-hour security patrols at the site.

The council took no action on Armstrong's suggestion.

tic."

• Stacey Westphal, who has the part of Madcap Maisie, the part made famous by Twiggy in the Broadway production. Westphal, this year's homecoming queen, was in "The Music Man" last year.

• Brian Chamberlain, senior and editor of the school paper, "The Informer." Chamberlain, who is student body vice president, and performs in the orchestra and jazz band, plays Bobby Van Jusen.

• Pieter Snapper, a junior, who plays Percival Browne. He's in the ensemble, choir, jazz band and orchestra. This is his third musical at Albany High.

• Debbie Hein, who plays Mme. Dubonnet. She is a senior, president of the choir and ensemble and student body secretary/treasurer.

*"The Boyfriend" will run from Thursday, April 5 to Sunday, April 8. All four performances are at 8 p.m. at the Albany Little Theatre, with the exception of the Sunday matinee at 2 p.m. Tickets may be purchased at Albany High School. They cost \$4.50 for general admission; \$3.75 for AHS students; and \$3.75 for Albany elementary school students on Sunday. Call 525-7131 for information.*

• To adopt a permit parking ordinance, which it passed on the first reading last week.

• Not to meet in closed session with the Albany Peace Officers Association to discuss the continuing contract dispute. City Attorney Robert Zweben said such a meeting would violate the state open-meeting law.

• To ask the police chief and traffic and safety committee to review a state bill that would allow cities to set speed limits on residential street and use radar to enforce the speed limit. Ganong said the bill might be a way to stop speeders on well-traveled Marin Avenue.

• To proclaim April 1-8 as storytelling week in Albany.

The meeting is titled "Women's Health: Effecting Personal and Social Change," and it is co-sponsored by the Alameda County Unit of the American Cancer Society, Eden Hospital in Castro Valley, and Mills College, in cooperation with the Contra Costa Unit, American Cancer Society, and the Greater Contra Costa County Cancer Program. Reservations are being accepted by the Alameda County Unit of the Cancer Society.

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Lunch time keynote speaker will be Tish Sommers, president of the Older Women's League and a full-time volunteer activist on behalf of older women. Sommers is fighting cancer, and the title of her talk is "On the Road to Recover — With Hope."

Mills College President Mary S. Metz will welcome conference participants at 9 a.m., and the meeting will end at 5 p.m. The morning will feature a panel discussion of several topics: multiple social roles of women; smoking and women; osteoporosis, eating disorders, pre-menstrual syndrome, and cosmetic surgery. The afternoon will be devoted to workshops focusing on stages of adulthood in women. Each participant will be able to choose two of these workshops.

The conference fee of \$25 includes the luncheon and materials. The fee for students and seniors is \$20. To register, send a check made to the American Cancer Society along with your name, address, day phone number and choice of afternoon workshops. Students should indicate their school affiliation.

Send the registration to Alameda County Unit, American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 12676, Oakland, 94604. For further information call the Alameda Unit office at 832-7012.

All entries must be sent to the West Contra Costa Board of Realtors, 46th and Nevin Avenue, Richmond 94805 no later than April 14.

Semin Organization is offering a two month introductory course in Japanese Semin Ryōji style healing arts, for anyone aged 14 and above. Included is membership in the Semin Organization.

Tuition is \$65. Classes start at the Albany Semin Organization Dojo, 1309 Solano Avenue, on April 1.

Pre-registration is needed.

Semin Ryōji is a healing system in which energy is transferred from the practitioner to the subject through pressing with the palms, thumbs and fingers.

Stretching exercises are also introduced. For information call 526-7518 or 548-6446.

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## Briefs

### Forum set on sculpture

ALBANY — An open meeting to discuss a proposed sculpture park will be held by the Albany Arts Committee at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 3 in the council chambers at City Hall.

Residents will have the opportunity to view photographs of the three works approved for purchase by the arts committee and to hear details of the public art proposal presented to City Council at the March 5 meeting.

The arts committee has asked that City Council accept the works for installation on the Key Route strip between Washington and Portland avenues.

Funds for the purchase were contributed by Albany resident Dario Menetti.

### Want a free paint job?

In honor of Private Property Week, April 8-14, the West Contra Costa Board of Realtors has announced a "call for entries" for a free exterior house painting.

"We want to help our community in a tangible way, to roll up our sleeves and contribute to property improvement and civic pride," said J.J. Dagna, chairperson of the board's communications committee.

To enter the house painting contest, submit your name, address, telephone number and a brief statement on why you believe your home should be selected. Homes must be owner-occupied and in West Contra Costa County. Judges will be looking for unusual family or financial circumstances as criteria for the winner.

All entries must be sent to the West Contra Costa Board of Realtors, 46th and Nevin Avenue, Richmond 94805 no later than April 14.

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# Alarming increase seen in armed robberies

By JOHN ADAMS

Armed robberies have soared in the West County and even quiet communities like El Cerrito are facing the pressure of these dangerous crimes. In Richmond, robberies of all kinds increased from 1982 to 1983, an upward swing of 18 percent. El Cerrito, armed robbery increased from 47 in 1982 to 605 in 1983, a rise of 100 percent. And although San Jose doesn't keep separate statistics for armed robberies, police say a noteworthy increase in the crimes has occurred in the first two months of 1984.

The local upswing is singular since statewide figures show robberies of all kinds fell 6.3 percent in 1983.

Sgt. Ray Ramer of the Richmond Police Department says most robberies are crimes of opportunity. They aren't planned, but happen when a gunman or a strongarm robber finds a likely victim in an unguarded area.

"Many victims here are elderly," notes Ramer. He's not sure why robberies, particularly armed robberies, are on the upswing, but one reason may be that unarmed clerks and unwary citizens make things too easy for the criminals.

Police emphasize avoiding dangerous situations, saying that by the time someone sticks a gun in your ribs and demands your cash, you have already lost.

The best defense against an armed robber, says El Cerrito Lt. Bill Edmunds, is never to get in a place where it feels safe to approach you. "Physically resisting an armed assailant is dangerous. It is better to give up proper-

ty than risk injury."

But Edmunds cautions, "submission should not be to the point of accepting physical harm. There's an old ethic that applies here. If you have been the victim of an armed robbery and have not been harmed, you have succeeded, even though you had to give up property."

Officer David Parsons, of the Richmond Police Department's Crime Prevention Unit, says one important consideration for citizens is not to carry more cash than one needs to conduct daily business.

"Do as much of your business as you can by check or credit card."

Parsons doesn't advocate carrying a weapon. "First, it's illegal. Second, all too often the weapon is used against you." Merchants should avoid making night deposits when possible, he adds, and avoid establishing a routine that a bandit might track.

"Victims shouldn't play hero," cautions police Detective Joe Aita of San Pablo. "If you try to resist you will probably lose. Your assailant wants cash. But he also wants to get away after he gets it."

Aita points to the fatal shooting outside Value Village in 1983 when a manager refused to turn an envelope of cash over to a gunman and was shot down. What would have been a holdup became a still-unsolved murder.

That's what worries officers the most. Armed robberies all too often turn into dangerous confrontations. Their point: Don't let that victim be you.

City didn't know it was there:

## Gas leak in trailer park

By DON McCORMACK

EL CERRITO — Fear of explosion, El Cerrito officials Monday shut off gas to a 57-year-old trailer park that some officials admitted they didn't know about until a few months ago.

The shutdown is expected to force the destruction of 18 cabins, 18 of which are occupied, at the Peek-a-Boo Trailer Park, located on San Pablo Avenue just two blocks south of the Del Norte BART station.

These cabins are home to many elderly people and people on fixed incomes, officials said at an emergency meeting called Monday afternoon to discuss what to do.

There are about 40 trailers in the park, some of which have their own propane tanks and are not hurt by the shutdown.

El Cerrito has jurisdiction over the cabins, the over the trailers — a situation that complicates the problem and that helped hide the presence of the cabins

from city officials. They said that they thought the state had complete jurisdiction over the park.

"How 18 cabins can be on San Pablo Avenue and the city not know they are there and that people are living in them is beyond me," said Roy Goodman, a seven-year resident of the park.

El Cerrito Fire Chief Pete Barraza said state officials were called Monday in an effort to speed up an estimate of what it will cost to restore gas to the trailers.

"Once we get this, we will give it to the owner and see if he wants to bring the park up to code and allow the trailers to stay," he said.

The park is owned by Dr. Fred Wells, an El Cerrito orthodontist, who was also at Monday's meeting.

Wells, interrupted several times by irate renters, said he had approved spending money to repair electrical problems and would cooperate with state officials to restore the gas. He also said that he had taken little direct interest in the park, leaving day-to-

day work to a manager. City Building Inspector Pat Hilliard said that plaf- fers under many water heaters had rotted away, leaving the heaters supported only by their pipes.

Last week, in response to complaints from one resident, El Cerrito shut down a portion of the park for gas repairs. Inspecting Monday, Hilliard found more gas leaks.

"You could have an explosion and put everyone's life on the line," he said at the meeting. "The fire department, with all the gas leaks, could be trapped just trying to fight the stupid fire."

Hilliard said that because of other code violations the cabins would probably have to be torn down. He said

### E.C. toddler nearly drowns

EL CERRITO — A two-year-old boy who nearly drowned in a backyard pool Sunday is recovering in Kaiser Hospital's Intensive Care unit in Oakland.

Rigel Schele was discovered in the pool about 10:10 a.m. Sunday at 1076 Arlington Blvd. Firefighters said the child had stopped breathing, but resuscitation by an unknown woman at the scene probably saved his life.

## Three

### cheers!

ALBANY — Albany High School has selected its 1984 cheerleaders and their girls. Chosen were head, Pam Chrisman; co-head, Pam Jacobsen; and Donna Brown. Michelle Furco, Linda Langell, Laurie Long and Claudia Muscordin. They will attend a training camp in July.

### Mystery set

The murder mystery musical, "Something's Got," will be open at the Shubert Playhouse, 105 Franklin Place, Point Richmond, on Friday, April 6. Performances will continue Friday and Saturday evenings at 8:30 p.m. through May 12. There will be three Sunday matinees at 2:30 p.m. on April 15 and 19 and May 6. Admission is \$5. For reservations, please call 526-6000.

### Come to the races

ALBANY — Elm Branch of Children's Hospital Medical Center will sponsor "A Day at the Races" on Wednesday, April 4, in the Terrace Room of the Turf Club at Golden Gate Fields. Tickets, which include admission and seats for the race, are \$15 each. They may be obtained from Jim McDermott at 525-1215. The luncheon will be served from 12:15 to 2 p.m. One race during the afternoon will be designated the Elm Branch race.

Jump on in

EL CERRITO — Jump on in the show El Cerrito children can participate in, to be telecast on Tele-

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A tour for finding roots:

## 'Going home' to China



Last year's study tour

By JUDY POLUMBAUM

Chinese-Americans whose ancestors came to this country to mine gold and build the railroads have an opportunity to explore their roots this summer.

The Overseas Chinese Service Bureau of the city of Guangzhou (Canton), the area where many Chinese emigrants came from, is sponsoring a 35-day study tour for students and adults of Chinese descent. The tour includes an introduction to Chinese culture by university lecturers and two weeks of travel around the country. In addition, the Bureau will assist tour members in locating relatives.

"It's a chance for young Chinese-Americans who have grown up in this country to visit and learn from their ancestral villages," said Edith Gong of El Cerrito, a Nevada-born, San Francisco-raised Chinese who is helping to organize the trip.

Gong made her first trip to China in 1980, when she visited the village of her paternal grandfather. This time, she plans to look up her mother's side of the family.

"You wonder, what does it look like, what is it like in China?" she said. "For so many years, everything was closed off to us. It's really a very, very exciting experience and very educational, and one trip is not enough, because you just barely scratch the surface."

The Chinese government is very eager for overseas Chinese to visit their native land, according to Gong. "They really want them all to come back. There are overseas connections going back over 100 years. They long to have relatives come back and be reunited, whether they stay or not."

Gong's paternal grandfather came to this country around the turn of the century and settled in Carson City, Nevada, where he opened a store stocking items from China for miners working in the Sierra Nevada.

Gong's 1980 trip to China was with a regular tourist group. She applied through the China Travel Service to visit her grandfather's village in Shunde county, outside Guangzhou city, but had to find her way there on her own.

"I went back completely unannounced," she said. "My husband and I hired a taxi from the hotel. The driver was a young girl. We kind of asked our way to the village. We just wandered in; nobody knew we were coming."

They found the house her grandfather had lived in, now occupied by her aunt, a woman in her 90's. "She was so excited she was in tears," Gong said.

The house was very well-kept, and displayed on the walls were photographs that the overseas relatives had sent back over the years, including pictures of Gong and her brother when they were young.

Those who go on the trip this summer will not have to find their own way to their villages, Gong said. "The sponsors will help them out."

This is the third summer such a tour has been offered. Twenty-eight people from all over the country signed up last year, one-third of them college students. This year, the organizers hope to get more college-age people and also some high school seniors.

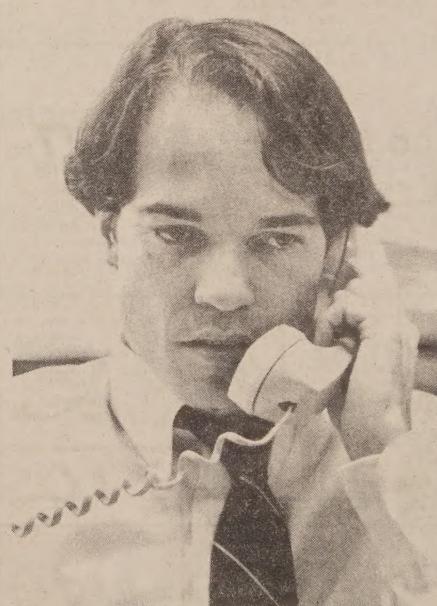
"We can take 40, 60, 80, whatever," Gong said. "We want one guide for every 15 to 20 people. If we get more people, we'll just get more guides."

The tour dates are June 28-Aug. 2, and the all-inclusive cost is \$2,640 for students and \$2,900 for adults. Participants who recruit others will get a reduction in cost. Students may be eligible for five units of college credit if they do projects based on the tour.

For more information, write to: China Study Tour III, 1401 Ada St., Berkeley, Ca. 94703; or call Edith Gong at 233-1620 or Mary Ann Chuck at 524-5440.

## Robert Cheasty for City Council

VOTE APRIL 10  
STAY INVOLVED.  
ALBANY IS WORTH IT.



I became associated with Robert Cheasty while I was serving on the Albany Blue Ribbon Pension Advisory Committee. I discovered during those numerous meetings that Mr. Cheasty was not only extremely knowledgeable about the enormous problems facing our city, but his professional input and suggestions played a large part in the final analysis and report submitted to the City Council.

He has also demonstrated a high regard for the interest of the citizens of Albany. I urge you to support him for councilmember in the April election."

Ray Gonzales, Fire Marshall (retired),  
Albany Fire Department

I have worked closely with Robert. He was the primary person responsible for producing the Pension Advisory Committee Report. The Report is a well researched, professional analysis of the City's troubled Police and Firefighters' Pension Plan. He is a dedicated worker who brought unity to a diverse committee. He will be a real asset on the City Council."

Harry Rabin, Pension Advisory Committee, Former Chair, Civil Service Board

Committee to Elect Robert Cheasty, Patricia Hutchinson Vega, Treas.

Charles F. Graeber, Honorary Chair, Patricia Hutchinson Vega, Treas.

## Suzuki players give concert



Photo by Pamela McNeil

Suzuki performers include (l.-r.) Tesha McNeill-Sholar, Robert Milner, Ethan Filner, Dixie Ching, Stefan Kraft, Sebastian Kraft, Julie Campbell and Susan Barrows.

The East Bay Suzuki Music Association will hold its annual spring concert on Saturday, March 31 from 7:30-8:30 p.m. in the sanctuary of the First Congregational Church of Berkeley.

The free program will include selections by Mozart, Handel and Bach, as well as a presentation by the beginning players.

The East Bay Suzuki Music Association has provided

musical training for young violinists for the past 11 years. Students range in age from 2 1/2 to 18 and may play in other Bay Area orchestras.

The group follows the traditional method of the Japanese Master Teacher Shinichi Suzuki. These methods emphasize ear training and the nurturing of the musical talents of every child.

Finally, considering that her husband attends UC, they live in Albany Village in a international atmosphere, her children go to American schools and she works, how painful it is that it took months of self-searching and depression before she could find an American friend to ask who rocked their baby at 2 p.m.!

## Mail bag

### A view of India

I just read an article written by Ms. M. Dutta of Albany on her experience in the USA in the March 14 issue of Times-Journal. While I'm aware that Ms. Dutta was only narrating her "own" feelings, I, as an Indian living in the U.S. for many years, can assure your readers that the Indian community in the United States is very different from the stereotyped image Ms. Dutta paints of it. Far from living in a cocoon, the Indians in the U.S. are well integrated with the American society.

Most of the Indians are highly educated professionals living and working together with their American counterparts. And at the same time, like other ethnic groups, Indian community proudly has preserved its rich cultural heritage. As Ms. Dutta narrates in her article, the Indian community is very hospitable and tried to help her in every possible way in her initial days which she seems to be unable to appreciate.

What is surprising is that for a person like Ms. Dutta, who has lived in India, Brazil and Japan before coming to the U.S., depression should set in on her just because she did not have some American friends. It seems to me that her depression was mainly due to change in life style, meager resources and temporary period of inactivity rather than her inability to make American friends.

Finally, considering that her husband attends UC, they live in Albany Village in a international atmosphere, her children go to American schools and she works, how painful it is that it took months of self-searching and depression before she could find an American friend to ask who rocked their baby at 2 p.m.!

Sharmilla Bose  
El Cerrito

### Plot thickens in Plaza case

I is the young lady as came into Don Viale's Speakeasy with Madam Moralsky the night the dear madam was so cruelly killed, and I is very offended about you saying in your newspaper that the madam was, and I quote, "proprietor of the infamous Red House for wayward girls."

We ain't no wayward girls. We is cultured, respectable young ladies as we entertain only the most upright citizens of the community and maybe sometime a traveling salesman.

Love and kisses to you all,  
Bubbles XXXX  
Red House

### His hart is in the wrong place

U.S. hands off Central America as Gary Hart's policies would be a disaster for freedom in the Western Hemisphere. The Soviet-Cuba-Nicaraguan axis would surely be a grave threat to the U.S. and millions of refugees would pour into Southwestern U.S.

Better to help Central Americans repel the aggression but Hart opposes helping Nicaraguans repel their own country. He opposed the liberation of Granada and therefore drove the removal of U.S. forces. He ignored Central American huge arms depots in Granada and his 10,000 foot airfield for control of the southern Caribbean, its oil refineries and shipping which supply about 60 percent of energy used in the eastern U.S.

Hart claims to be unaware that current Nicaragua is totalitarian. He says that poverty, not communism, is the enemy despite the fact that Red government produce loss of freedom so necessary for individual motivation in the alleviation of that individual's poverty.

Hart opposes American pressure in Africa and Mideast. Soviet, Iranian and Libyan aggression would establish Red control of the Persian Gulf and other sources of strategic metals. Hart opposes U.S. defense systems in or near production and favors those unlikely to be produced for many years. Such policy would involve research and make capitalization inevitable.

Hart opposes capital punishment and parental control of education. He supports busing and legislation favoring sex deviants despite kidnappings and attacks even on children. He favors sex "education" in the schools, including funding for abortions and the phony amendment which would strip American women of their legal protection. Hart also claims to have voted against every element of Reganomics. Need more he said?

Dr. John Hart  
Kenosha

### A vote for Cheasty

In this April election for City Council I recommend Albany voters look closely at the qualifications of Robert Cheasty. I had the opportunity to work with Robert's Pension Advisory Committee and found him to be a working, knowledgeable, and most importantly, willing to listen to divergent sides of an emotional issue.

He was the major author of the entire committee report to the City Council and I feel no better job has been done. He will bring to the City Council a mind on all the issues, a non-alignment with any party and an intelligent approach to city government. I encourage Albany citizens to vote for Robert Cheasty.

Harry Hart  
Albany

### On sports & politics

Stephen Radkey's article "The Sacred Baseball" not specific as to what prompted his ire. His reference to Little League being a Sacred Cow, requires paying large to, has political overtones and be sure you support it or it is almost certain defeat is without substance or demeaning to the many volunteers who make up this organization.

I will assume this reaction was caused by the picture of Council candidate Bob Luoma and myself in his campaign literature. Yes, I am currently the president of Albany Little League and I chose to have my picture with him, as I did for Mayor Ganong as chairman of the Pension Advisory Committee, with Councilman McNamee when I was the mayor and I certainly let it be known that I supported Bob Zwien for reelection, as the mayor. You see I am the politician, not the Little League, don't remember seeing me at the City Hall every Monday night for over four years?

Now for your statement that every person serving on a committee should be sure you are a member or support Little League or face certain defeat is without merit. Recently elected Council members Gleason, Griffin, Jackson, Howell, George, Ganong, Johns, Kruse, McNamee and Rotramel, to my memory did not allude to being a member of this organization in their campaign literature. Bob Luoma, who is still actively supporting the Little League does state this, as I did. Bob's 28 years and my 19 years of volunteer service deserves mentioning regardless of the organization.

The real Little League people you will find on the fields moving dirt, mowing the lawn, raking the area, pounding in fence posts, coaching the kids and enduring blood, sweat and tears. This is labor, not a political action with significant overtones, just plain grunts and grinds.

Yes, we will have our annual parade on April 20. We start planning the parade in October and if you are serious about starting a 4th of July parade, then start planning now. Bob Luoma and I will probably give you hand if you need it.

The political issue is Bill Lewis, not the Albany Little League, so lay off this organization.

Bill Lewis  
Former Politician  
Albany

### El Cerrito campaigns against signs

By DON MCMORMACK

EL CERRITO — Fingers crossed, the El Cerrito City Council voted last week to charge candidates \$5 even though many may not pay.

The money will go to offset the cost of taking down political signs and enforcing the sign ordinance.

"The amount of money is so minuscule," said Mayor Howard Abelson, wondering if it was worth the trouble to pursue the candidates.

Many candidates pay companies to erect signs, said the companies "just put them up anywhere."

Council member Gregg Howe, who cast the sole dissenting vote, spoke for keeping elections free of impropriety and made a motion to set the fee at zero. His proposal died for want of a second.

Council member Charles Lewis IV said the fee would be hard to collect from outside candidates, school board members, county supervisors and state office seekers. President Reagan's name was even mentioned as a candidate for a \$15 fee.

In the end, the council, saying it wanted people to pay city services to pay the bill, went along with \$15, ordering the bill to be mailed in a packet to candidates. City Manager Ron Creagh has the task of working out the details of enforcement.

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\*Net Wt.

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\*Net Wt.

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## Features

## Visiting China: dream of a lifetime

like to think of myself as a relatively sophisticated traveler. I'm not the sort to show up in a Hawaiian shirt or gawk at big buildings. So how come I was jumping up and down, murmuring, "I'm in China, oh boy, in China?"

From that first hasty walk in the cold night air from terminal to the customs and reception building in Shanghai, to the final weary wait for a return flight two weeks later from Beijing, I was excited. China: the great unknown. The subject of high school debate: should Red China be admitted to the United Nations? The magical and exotic country where women's feet once were bound and crippled. The nation that made food preparation an art form.

My visit to China last month as part of a group of 58 American media people was a chance for me to climb into my Viewmaster slides; the name might be "The People's Garden" instead of the Enchanted Lotus Park, but the pictures were the

Our trip was organized by the China International Travel Service (CITS), the government agency concerned with tourism. CITS wants the world to know that China is open for tourism, and one way of getting the word out is to sing in media people and unroll the red carpet. Thus for our stay we were cosseted and feted.

The Chinese bureaucracy is awe-inspiring. It worked in our advantage in that many things were arranged smoothly for us, so smoothly that the seams didn't show. It also had its down side, its pettigressing detail, its rules-are-rules mentality, and we got our first taste of that at the Shanghai airport.

Two buses appeared to take us to our hotel. "Passenger from New York, take bus 1; passengers from San Francisco, take bus 2," the guides told us. Fourteen hours on a plane weakens the spirit, so we simply boarded the buses as instructed. But by morning, the buses were gone, and the Chinese guides were clearly unprepared how independent; not to say frigious, American journalists can be. People who'd been assigned roommates across the country wanted to change bus assignments. Some wanted to ride with people they'd gotten friendly with on the plane. And others simply wanted to hop on whatever bus was nearest.

(Personally, I didn't care. But I must confess that I had a momentary qualm about joining the San Francisco bus; I guess in my heart I still think I'm a New Yorker. I happened to overhear the woman who later qualified as the group's least likable member haranguing the tour leader to rearrange the buses so all the young people could ride together. I promptly announced this to my companions at breakfast, earning myself a reputation as someone who always knew what was going on.)

None of this cut any ice with the Chinese. Bus assignments were made in Shanghai and so they remained.

On any tour through China, it is CITS who decides where you will go and where you will stay. Our original itinerary had included Xi'an, a city famous for the life-size terra cotta figures unearthed from emperors' tombs. A few weeks before departure, we were informed that the itinerary had been changed and that instead we would go to Qufu, the home of Confucius, and Mount Tai. The official line was that both these areas were only recently opened to tourists. That turned out not to be true. As far as we could determine, there's some political unrest in Xi'an, and that's probably why the government didn't want a bunch of journalists wandering around.

Despite the fact that China is an information-controlled society, with many limits on personal freedom, we had quite a bit of leeway. If we chose not to participate in a given activity, we were free to make other plans. If we needed a taxi to visit a different part of the city, a guide would arrange one for us, and if we wanted to wander around on our own, we could. My biggest regret about these spontaneous excursions was that I didn't speak the language; there are limits to pantomime.

One afternoon I decided to skip the factory tour in favor of getting a massage. The masseur in Chinese hotels is also the barber, so I want down to the basement to the barber shop.

"I want to get a massage," I told the young woman who greeted me.

She smiled and tried to lead me to one of the chairs in the room.

"No, I don't want my hair done," I said. "I want a massage up in my room." I pointed skyward.

This got us nowhere. She smiled and offered the chair. I smiled and pointed up. At last I took out my room key and waved it at her. That's when the barber appeared. He wrote my room number on a piece of paper and said something.

I stood there smiling. I'd probably be standing there

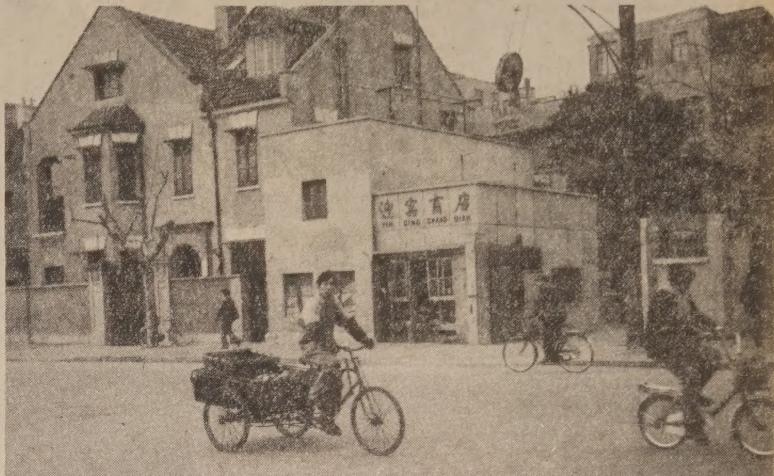
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Early morning street scene in Shanghai

still if my companion hadn't said, "He wants to know what time you want the massage."

Oh, "Two o'clock," I said. I held up two fingers. The barber wrote it down, and we left.

"How did you know that?" I asked as we waited for the elevator.

"It was the next logical question," he said. Aha, logic.

I was so unnerved by my inability to communicate that I had stopped thinking.

The massage turned out to be worth all the preliminary awkwardness. That barber had thumbs that could go through concrete, and if it had been possible, I have packed him into my suitcase and brought him home. I mean, we are talking serious pleasure here, goodbye aches and pains, hello joy and ease of movement.

Not all our independent ventures were so successful.

At one railway station, some of us wandered out of the "tourist waiting room" to see where Chinese passengers waited, got a glimpse of a far less commodious room and then were firmly hustled back to our own room by an official-looking person. One of the photographers had a minor fracas in the street one day that led to a police officer being called, but it ended amicably.

CITS chose a variety of hotels for us, and, with one exception, I was pleased. In Nanjing we stayed in the country's newest hotel, the ultra-swanky Jinling. This hotel was fancier than my house; it had a revolving roof.

top bar as well as extension telephones in the bathrooms.

My own preference would have been for something less opulent; China from the 36th floor looks like Seattle or Vancouver or wherever. In Qufu we stayed in the guesthouse that had been built for the lineal descendants of Confucius. This place was more than a little quaint; the rooms were located on courtyards that led off each other in a bewildering pattern. My room had three beds in it; the fellow next door had a sitting room with five chairs, all uncomfortable. But there was heat and hot water, plenty of boiled water for tea, and a pair of thongs in the bedside cupboard. Here was a place where you felt you were in China, not Atlanta or San Francisco.

Only in Beijing did CITS really blow it. They assigned us to the year-old Hua Du Hotel. We took to calling it Hua Don't. Due to a clerical error, the group was short one room, and the inflexible bureaucracy took over. Although there were dozens of empty rooms in the place, it took more than half a day to straighten out. Tiles were loose in the showers, the carafes of hot water were rarely refilled, and the food was greasy and boring.

Maybe in a way it just as well, since for the 11 days preceding, we had eaten as if each meal would be our last. Five banquets were given for us, and every time we turned around someone was offering us something to eat.

Next week: Oh boy did we eat.

## Honoring a native daughter

Cynthia Gie-Kiok Gouw, Miss Chinatown USA, was the guest of honor last weekend at the annual dinner of the Chinese Cultural Education Association. Gouw, a resident of El Cerrito, was honored by the City Council.

Times Journal photo by Debra Jensen



## El Cerrito refuses to okay children's 'bodyguard' bill

EL CERRITO — Doubtful about where money should be spent, the El Cerrito City Council last week refused to endorse a bill that would spend \$23 million to teach children how to ward off bullies and molesters.

Council member Jean Siri said she thought the money might be better spent on child protective services rather than in schools — a sentiment echoed by other council members.

The bill, written by Assembly member Maxine Waters, would set up two centers to train teachers. Council members said the program called for one hour of mandatory instruction to be given the children during school

time.

Council member Charles Lewis IV, who has worked in local schools teaching children about the justice system, pumped hard for the bill, saying that after one session a girl told him she had been raped.

Lewis said that through the Rape Crisis Center, the Richmond Unified School District was instructing local children how to deal with molesters.

No vote was taken, the council majority being clear in its opposition.

The El Cerrito Council was asked to endorse the bill by Berkeley Council member Barbara Ann Lashley.

## Students compete for bank's awards

Zone competitions of Bank of America's 1984 Achievement Awards will be held on March 29.

The panels will judge local high school winners on the basis of written compositions and a roundtable discussion by the students on subjects related to three study fields — applied and fine arts, liberal arts, and science and mathematics. In addition, each participant's scholastic records and extracurricular activities will be evaluated.

The judges will select three students from each zone to compete in the East Bay regional finals to be held May 3. Competitors include, in applied and fine arts: Elizabeth Rhodes of El Cerrito H.S.; in liberal arts: Amal Abed of El Cerrito H.S. and Cassie Henry of Albany H.S.; in science and mathematics: Hsian-Tsu Liao of Albany H.S. and Natasha Zalkin of El Cerrito H.S.

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• Blurred Vision

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• Loss of Normal Movement

## Back Problems

• Back Aches • Spinal Disorders

• Back Pains • Low Back Pain

• Strains • Hip Pain

• Sprains • Sciatica

• Scoliosis • Maternal Back

• Chronic Back Problems

• Pain Between Shoulder Blades

## Arm and Leg Problems

• Carpal Tunnel • Hand, Wrist or Elbow Pain

• Tennis Elbow • Shoulder Pain

• Tennis Elbow • Shoulder Pain

## Internal Problems

• Digestive Disorders • Tension

• Urinary Disorders • Stress

• Circulatory Disorders • Weight Loss

• Sexual/Reproductive Dysfunctions

• Children's and Senior's Problems

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Call now for Appointment.

# Books

## 'Downtown from Calistoga' is on the right track

By BEATRICE MOTAMED

Tonight's Amtrak train from Oakland will whisk you to Sacramento in just two hours, for a one-way price of \$11.50 and a reservation made a week in advance.

Fifty years ago, a 13-year-old Raymond Parsons made the same trip, by leaping onto the boxcar of a steam freight train called the Manifest, as it slowed to pass through the Albany lumberyards. After three hours of shivering on the cold, dark car, Parsons would glimpse the twinkling lights of Sacramento.

Then he and a friend would stumble from the train and find an all-night Chinese restaurant, where they ordered steaming bowls of pork noodle soup. Total cost for the trip: 15 cents for dinner, nothing for the long ride under the deep night sky.

The allure of old-time steam railroading is the subject of Parsons' first self-published novel, "The Downtrain From Calistoga." A fictional account of Parsons' boyhood as a railroad enthusiast in Albany, the book describes the railroads that criss-crossed the East Bay until World War II, when the distinctive rumble and white smoke plumes of the steam engine gave way to the faster, more efficient diesel. Parsons' first-person account and poem chronicle his affection for the gracious, simple joys of railroading.

Trains were an important part of growing up on Albany during the Great Depression years, Parsons explains.

"Albany was full of vacant houses...it was a wonderful place to play. There being no television, kids had to improvise." Parsons' book also recalls his childhood exploits: "We were going to go tramping over Albany Hill of down the Southern Pacific Railroad tracks, or go looking for treasure in the Albany dumps."

Trains of his day had colorfully descriptive names, such as the Red Line that operated in Berkeley, named for its distinctively painted sides, and the Short Line, which ran from Oakland to San Francisco and Chico. There was the Coast Line, a beautiful journey from Los Angeles all the way to San Francisco, and the Overland Express — Parsons' Saturday night special, for which he'd sneak out of the house while his parents slept.

His thin hands leafing through old pictures, Parsons tells more: about the nickname for the Southern Pacific Railroad Company, or Espee, and the trains from Calistoga that curved through the Napa Valley to the East Bay and back again each day.

Passengers strolled through the dining room, sat on the top runway of the slow-moving cars — remembering to duck for tunnels — laughed and played cards in the boxcars as the trains headed for Washington, Nevada, Chicago. Hoboes hitching rides on the trains were friendly. It was a time when trains provided the nation's cheapest, easiest form of transit.

"That was really the time of the great hobo movement in America," Parsons says, recalling the Depression years. "A train would go by with maybe a hundred hobos on it."

Albany was known as a good place to hop a freight because trains often slowed as they reached the steep grade of the Albany tracks. And hobo camps were set up at the end of Buchanan Street toward Point

Fleming, "a favorite spot, because there was a stand of eucalyptus," Parsons explains. Hoboes included "people who were out of work...the hoboes would go up to Washington and pick apples and go down south and pick something else...Some of these people got to like this life and camping and the freedom of it."

"There's something about steam engines that's romantic," Parsons says. "You hear the effort expended by a steam engine, the heat of the firebox...and the whistle...it was very sad, very beautiful."

Parsons says that American trains are so much slower and less pleasant than their European counterparts that Americans naturally prefer to take planes or buses — thus missing the most important part of train riding — getting to know the scenery.

"Airplanes are a poor man's way to travel, a drudgery. If one likes to travel, you see everything and travel is really an experience" on a train, says Parsons.

"A train will usually cut across — right through nature — in a thin path. Then there's the pleasure of getting up for a stroll" to the dining car or conductor's cab. "People who travel on a plane don't know what they're missing."

Parsons, who has lived in the Philippines, Australia and Italy, where he worked for Radio Free Europe for 12 years, knows what he's talking about when he contemplates modes of travel. For Parsons, trains in the U.S. and abroad represent a way of life as well as a way to get somewhere.

"There's no comparison between the train here and the trains in Europe — all the trains in Italy are infinitely faster than they are here," Parsons says. Convenience is also a factor in European train travel. "Here in America, profit is such a motive that the train is taken off if it doesn't make money," Parsons notes, recalling the near-d dozen trains that used to provide easy transit across the Bay Bridge.

Train travel "used to be wonderful" but "without Amtrak, it would be even worse." Still, Parsons remembers a time when every child's dream was to ride the noisy black coal-breathers with the ponderous, grating axles.

"You must remember that people in general loved trains then. It was so important to the life of the country. You'd ask kids what they wanted to be and they'd say, engineers. They'd stand by the side of the tracks and wave to the engineers."

Although BART trains now glide over the tracks of the Southern Pacific's old Overland Express, Parsons' journey through the railroading past is just beginning. He plans to write another book about lumbering in eastern California, and a book about a train in Paris where he met a beautiful and mysterious woman.

"I will be able to drag in a lot of things about European life then," he says, with a chuckle.

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# Schools

## Gifted rift: IQ vs. talent

By BARBARA ERICKSON

**A** plan to bring talented students into the Richmond Unified gifted program has drawn fire from the parents of top academic pupils, who say the proposal is unworkable and would threaten the district's pull-out "seminars" at 11 schools.

During a recent board presentation, members of the gifted program's District Advisory Committee consistently attacked the administration plan, which could serve up to 642 students talented in art, drama, music or dance next year.

School officials have been looking at ways to expand the gifted program from students with high IQs to include pupils with abilities in the arts. State law now allows districts to fund classes for students who are gifted in the academics and the arts under the Gifted and Talented Education program.

Richmond Unified has three current programs for the academically gifted — the pull-out "seminars" in 11 elementary schools; magnet programs with full time classes of gifted students at Nystrom, Collins and Wilson; and individualized classroom instruction at schools lacking one of the other programs.

The district receives about \$24 for each identified gifted student, down from a high of more than \$100 in the early 1970s. Students are certified gifted after passing IQ tests, or, in the case of talented pupils, after a committee review.

Administrators asked the board to approve a school-within-a-school program for the talented at three elementary sites — Peres, Del Mar and Collins.

Students with "extraordinary" ability in the arts would be grouped in separate classes and offered pull-out instruction in their specialized areas. The program would serve about 118 students in grades four through six.

At the secondary level, three junior highs would be paired with three senior highs designated as visual and performing arts centers — Helms with Richmond High, Pinole Junior with Pinole Valley High, and Portola with El Cerrito.

The secondary program would serve about 524 students, and the additional students at all grade levels would mean that district funding would be spread thin, reducing the per pupil allotment from \$24 to \$18.

## Scholarship concert features local violinist

The Young People's Symphony Orchestra's annual scholarship concert will be held Friday, March 30 at 8 p.m. at the First Congregational Church of Berkeley, Dana and Channing Way.

Violinist Natasha Zalkin of Kensington will be a featured soloist with Eric Hansen conducting.

Concert repertoire includes Vivaldi's "Concerto for Four Violins in B Minor," Schubert's "Unfinished Symphony" and Widor's "Choral and Variations for Harp and Orchestra."

Tickets are \$3 general, \$1 student/senior citizen, and are available at the door. For information, call 526-3890.

The cost of the program would be \$11,556, according to administrators.

Staff members also presented two other proposals for the talented — after-school clusters and a mentor plan.

Under the cluster plan, students would come after school to study art at Collins, music at Del Mar and dance and drama at Peres. With four classes of 25 each, the program would reach 100 elementary students and cost about \$5,600.

Talented secondary students would be assigned to directed study and independent study programs.

The mentor plan would apply only to junior and senior high pupils. It would serve 35 students with the help of adult volunteers, and the sole cost would be in coordinating the program from the gifted office.

Pat Rupley, head of secondary education, said that "the staff feels it would not be proper not to extend (the gifted program) to the visual and performing arts, but it should not diminish the other programs."

To help pay for the additional cost, she said, an elementary principal could take on the job of consultant, now a full-time position. The principal would spend 40 percent of the job on the gifted program and 60 percent at the school.

Administrators also suggested trimming a high school counselor for the gifted position from the budget and contracting out for a psychologist to test prospective gifted students instead of paying a staff psychologist.

The savings from personnel cuts would allow the schools to buy more books and supplies for the expanded sites.

But parents of gifted students objected to nearly all of the administration's suggestions. They said they had not been told in advance of the plan to cut the consultant and counselor, and they said teachers could not deal with four talent areas in one class.

Kathy Rasmussen, DAC chairperson, said the district should not identify talented students before the sixth grade. Those students could then move into the secondary programs for the arts, she said.

Retha Wellons, a Kensington parent, called the plan "risky" and said it should be no more than a pilot program next year.

Others praised the seminar program and asked the board to insure its survival, and parent Austin Frank said the district should not take on too much.

"We should be continuing to look at what we've got in place," Frank said, "and try to do that better."

Their opposition drew a heated response from board member Katherine Lord, who said the group showed "a lot of hostility against the talented child" and a "subtle kind of exclusion."

Board member George Cantu also criticized the attitude of the parents. "There are many talented kids in the district whose needs are going sorely unmet," he said.

Eddis Harrison said the district would be better off training teachers to deal with gifted students in every class, and Frank Dalton asked the DAC to come back with its own recommendation for next year's gifted program.

Board president Don Lau set April 11 for the next discussion on the expanded program. The panel will have to vote by the end of that month if the program is to go into effect next fall.

## A Belgian exchange student finds honor in her new home



Exchange student Genevieve Planchard (c.) enjoys a snack with her host mother Joanne Zoldos and host sister Angela.

By ANDI STEIN

**W**hen Genevieve Planchard came to the United States from Belgium as an American Field Service exchange student last summer, she wasn't quite sure what to expect. What she never expected was to win an award for being one of two outstanding AFS students in the state of California.

Planchard, who presently attends El Cerrito High School, received a letter in February telling her she had been named the recipient of the Barbara R. Shurtliff Endowment.

This award is given to two AFS students in California every year by Lawrence Shurtliff of Walnut Creek, who established the fund in memory of his wife. The award is based on recommendations from the students' teachers and from AFS officers in New York.

Shurtliff donates an unspecified amount of money to AFS in the names of the two students selected. This is the first year a Bay Area student has been chosen for the award.

Planchard, 18, speaks French and English, and had

previously visited Germany and England. She said that had always been curious about the United States. In just as she arrived at the San Francisco Airport to meet her host family, "Mom" Joanne Zoldos and sisters Anna, 17, and Katrina, 14.

"This was the first time I'd gone away for such a time," she said, recalling her anxiety at the time. "I can't imagine the pressure. On one hand you're so close to meet these people with whom you're going to live and on the other you're a little bit afraid."

At home in Belgium, her senior class was composed of 70 students; in El Cerrito there are 300. She is involved in all the extracurricular activities the school offers.

"There's so much entertainment — clubs, theater, sports, drama — it's very different from Belgium," she said.

Here she has two younger sisters, while back in Belgium she has three older brothers. Planchard's father is the governor of the province of Luxembourg, and she and her family live in a very large mansion in the town of Luxembourg.

For recreation, she enjoys playing tennis, skipping, practicing the piano. She had also worked part-time with handicapped children. This fall she was a member of the Gaucho's tennis team. She still skis occasionally, and now is the treasurer of the schools AFS chapter. She began working part-time as an aide in a day care center in El Cerrito.

"You have everything right in California," she said, noting especially the scenery, the weather and the variety of foods. Sometimes, she admitted, she misses some of Belgium's specialties, such as Belgian french fries and chocolates.

At the end of the school year, Planchard will return to Belgium after a short bus trip sponsored by AFS. Currently, there are 35 AFS exchange students in the Area, according to Peggy Wall, president of the El Cerrito Adult AFS Chapter. These students get together from time to time at parties and other events.

Planchard will be entertained by donor Shurtliff at home, along with the other recipient of the award. She will also receive recognition for her honor at the awards ceremony in the spring.

According to Wall said, Planchard was the choice for the award because, "She meets people well and her manners are impeccable. I think these are things that impressed the committee people."

### PUBLIC NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE I-125225  
NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

Loan No. 18110469-7  
T.S. No. 5003-1-82

EVERGREEN SERVICE CORPORATION, as duly appointed Trustee under the following described deed of trust WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH (payable at time of sale in lawful money of the United States) all right, title and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed of Trust in the property hereinabove described:

TRUSTOR: EDWARD J. LEVITZ, a unmarried man  
BENEFICIARY: TWIN PINES FEDERAL SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION,

Recorded February 4, 1981, as instrument No. 81-018005, of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of Alameda County; said Deed of trust describes the following property:

Lot 14 and the eastern 12 1/2 feet of Lot 15 of the Snyder Tract, filed August 11, 1903, Map Book 19, page 38, Alameda County, Records.

YOU ARE IN DEBT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED JANUARY 20, 1981, UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER.

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# Features

## For this local master, the game is trumps

By JIM GRODNIK

KENSINGTON — Mike Lawrence literally exploded from an introverted college freshman into one of the world's premier bridge players.

As a UC-Berkeley freshman in 1957, a homemade chemistry experiment blew up, damaging his hands and eye. A counselor advised Lawrence to wait until summer session before attempting to take his finals.

With time on his injured hands, Lawrence wandered the Bear's Lair card room in the Student Union and got an involvement with bridge that has culminated in winning two world championships and writing a dozen books on the game.

Engrossed in the game, he attended class almost as an outgrowth, and eventually dropped out of school. "I went in bridge for the next three-and-a-half years," he says.

Now Lawrence plays professionally (an economic necessity which he hates), plays in tournaments, writes books and does what he once would have thought impossible — even in front of groups of people.

There was a time when he was unbearably shy.

Even before Lawrence took up bridge, his father's relentless criticism had worn away his confidence, Lawrence recalled. When Lawrence phoned home with news that he'd won his first master point, the father grew even unhappier. He wanted his son to pursue a more conventional occupation.

Before discovering bridge Lawrence had no friends. He was a complete recluse, I couldn't express myself, he says.

That began to change when his reputation grew and Lawrence was summoned by Texan Ira Corn to become a member of the now legendary Dallas Aces team. Lawrence went on to win two world championships on the team.

Since then, he's won several national titles, including prestigious Vanderbilt tournament, which he's won twice.

His most recent win, and his first pairs championship



—Times Journal photo by Debra Jensen

(teams in bridge consist of four players) was March 12 in San Antonio, Texas, when he teamed with Peter Weischel of Florida, to win the Men's Pair National Championship.

Lawrence, 43, has obtained a status in the bridge world that is equivalent to that of Johnny Miller or Tom Watson in golf, but his yearly bridge earnings (\$20,000 to \$25,000) are the same as those of a union grocery clerk. There are no endorsements, no travel expenses and no prize money.

The money comes from teaching, playing professionally and from royalties from the sale of his books, most of which deal with bridge strategy. He's also written a book on bridge humor, and one on backgammon, the best seller of the lot.

Lawrence parts company with his contemporaries in his dislike of playing professionally. Many experts follow the bridge circuit, renting themselves out for \$300 to \$400 a session to less skilled players who are out to buy victory. Lawrence hires out, but only after playing for nothing with a partner of his choice in the championship competition.

His desire to stay home rather than follow the action has made him "a little bit of a black sheep in the bridge world."

"No book has ever insulted me by playing the wrong card," he said. It's being saddled with inferior partners that bothers Lawrence about play for pay. He hates playing to lose.

Bridge, he said, is intensely competitive. "You don't just want to kill your opponent, you want to stomp him after he's dead."

That spills over in his personal life. Lawrence said bridge is such an emotional game that he rarely plays as a partner with his roommate, Sharon Soules, a top-level woman player. There's just too big a strain when somebody makes a mistake.

Bridge players are known to be fanatical in their love of the game. With a little prodding, dedicated players can recall in detail hands they played decades ago. What's the attraction?

William Nutting, of Kensington, a life master, and a bridge buddy of Lawrence's at UC Berkeley, put it this way. "It's midway between poker and chess. A balance of technical skill and working to deceive an opponent."

"Another fascination is you can see the results of your decisions almost immediately. You don't have to wait to see if you're right."

In his spare time, Lawrence makes stained-glass lamps, collects comic books, plays racquetball and paints. He no longer has any interest in chemistry.

### School district sets kindergarten signups

ALBANY — The Albany Unified School District will register children for admission to kindergarten for the fall of 1984 on Tuesday, May 8 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Children may be registered at Vista, Cornell or Marin schools.

University Village children are to be registered at the Albany Children's Center. The Children's Center will be open until 5:30 p.m.

Parents must bring the child's birth certificate or other proof of birth and be prepared to fill out health forms concerning vaccinations, immunizations, and childhood diseases. Verification of the dates of immunizations for polio, measles (rubeola), D.P.T., mumps and rubella (German measles) for each kindergarten child is required.

No child can unconditionally enter kindergarten next fall without immunizations. School nurses will be present to assist parents and to check medical information.

Children are eligible for public school kindergarten if they will be five years of age on or before Dec. 2, 1984. The district cannot accept registration for children who are younger, if the child has preschool experience.

An accurate spring registration is important to the school district for planning next year's kindergarten classes. If registration on May 8 is not possible, please register your child during school hours at any elementary school as soon as possible after that date.

Beginning April 16, parents residing outside of Albany must register children new to the district at the District Office. Out-of-district students will be placed on a first-come, first-served basis as classroom space is available.

### E.C. Chamber picks new committee chiefs

EL CERRITO — President Sil Addiego has announced the new El Cerrito Chamber of Commerce committee leaders for 1984.

Heading the merchant's committee is Ed Canepa; legislative committee, Marvin Collins; special events committee, Liz Barajas; membership committee, Vic Paolini; and development committee, Fran Tegg.

Program chairman is Harry Kiefer, first vice-president.

Committees carry out the chamber's programs. They make recommendations to the board of directors. Members are invited to join any committee.

New Chamber members are the El Cerrito Glass Company, 11808 San Pablo Ave. and Hibernia Sales & Leasing, 5818 Cutting Blvd.

### Study class, retreat set by Unitarians

KENSINGTON — On Thursday, April 5, from 7:30-9:30 p.m. and for the following 10 weeks, a series entitled "Building Your Own Theology," will be presented by the First Unitarian Church of Berkeley.

This class will be led by John Tucker, Jacqueline Collins and Lynn Smith. Registration fee is \$6.50 and covers the study guide and handouts. Class is limited to 12 participants.

The weekend of April 13-15 will be a three-day retreat at the church led by Dr. Dody Donnelly. Participants may bring sleeping bags and spend the nights at the church. Some half price scholarships are available.

To register, or make a request, please write to The First Unitarian Church, 1 Lawson Road, Kensington, 94707

### KING TU RESTAURANT & LOUNGE

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OPEN 6 DAYS A WEEK!

LUNCH Times: Sat. 11:30-3:30  
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### LUNCH SPECIAL

CHOICE

- 2 Flautas, Rice, Salad
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- Salad, Guacamole & Sour Cream

\$4.00  
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Albany

527-2025

### Band standouts



—Photo by James Pease

El Cerrito High School students were part of the 1984 California All-State Honor Bands at the Santa Cruz convention of the California Band Directors Association. More than 600 students from 250 high schools auditioned, and 270 were selected. The students are, from left, Theo Tanabe, Ken Brooks, Jeff Adachi and Sue White.

### Note of thanks

### Baseball supporters

Letters to the editor are usually in response to controversial issues, matters of public outrage or political in-fighting. I'm writing to express thanks and gratitude to a group in our community.

El Cerrito Youth Baseball is a non-profit organization that provides an opportunity for 400-500 young people to participate in organized sports in the spring of each year.

Support comes from registration fees, fund raisers, donations and sponsorships from local businesses. It is to these merchants that I direct my appreciation.

In the past 4 months, 28 individual companies have

pledged sponsorship to "Their Team." Some contribute for the advertising advantage, some for the charitable donation on their taxes, some for the good feeling they get from getting involved but, all contributed their support for the betterment of our youth. Sponsor fees help defray the costs of uniforms, equipment, field rental, etc. Without sponsor fees, E.C.Y.B. would be hard pressed to support itself. In addition to their monetary donation, this year's sponsors have expressed an interest in watching "their team" play.

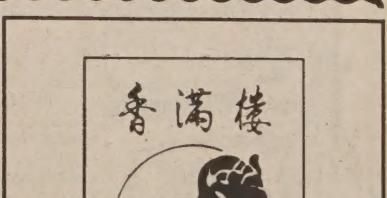
I hope that our organization will be a source of pride to the community and to our special group of business people.

Pat Flier, Sponsor Chairman  
El Cerrito Youth Baseball



"The First Time You'll Come for the View..."

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# Getting down to business

*Close your eyes and it's Greece*

Todd Armstrong (r.), second vice-president of the Albany Chamber of Commerce, enjoys lunch at the Mediterranean Gardens, 809 San Pablo Ave. Youseff and Nasig Souki, brothers and partners, serve a variety of appetizers such as jommos bithine, baba ganouche, tabbouleh, falafel, grape leaves, labneh and mezza, as well as meat grilled over mesquite charcoal.

Photo by Luoma Photography



**A SWEET TREAT** — Fran Tegg (l.), vice president of the El Cerrito Chamber of Commerce, and Smith, the city's community development director, sample the wares from El Cerrito's new take-out restaurant, Souper Yogurt, 10969 San Pablo Ave. Owners Julie and Gene Abuan await the results of their cooking.

## Register for camp featuring music, art

Camps, Inc., a non-profit organization, will sponsor the Cazadero Music and Arts Camp for beginners to experienced.

Young adult camp for ages 14-18 is held from June 26-July 7. Youth Camp I, for ages 11-13, runs from July 10-July 21.

Family Camp for all ages is from August 4-August 11. Youth Camp II for ages 8-13 is in session from August 14-August 25.

For information, call 549-2396 or write to Camps Inc., 1744 University Ave., Room 208, Berkeley, Ca. 94703.

## New owner for bookstore

Castalia Book Store at 1554 Solano Ave. has been acquired by Lamour-Alma Enterprises, Inc., a holding and management company with origins in Great Britain.

Maureen Fletcher, member of the board of directors of Lamour-Alma, will assume office of president/proprietor of Castalia and work in the store.

**JAY VEE • DARI DELI • JAY VEE • PARTY GOODS**

**JAY VEE**

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**• GROCERIES • JAY VEE**

**Castalia Book Store**

**1554 Solano Ave.**

**ALBANY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

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**CHRISTIAN BROS. BRANDY 1.75 Ltr. 11.99**

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**FLEISCHMANN'S GIN 1.0 Ltr. 5.89**

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**FLEISCHMANN'S VODKA 1.0 Ltr. 4.49**

**BACARDI RUM Light or Dark 1.0 Ltr. 6.39**

**WOLFSCHMIDT VODKA 1.75 Ltr. 7.99**

**MYERS RUM CREAM 750 ML 11.99**

**BAILEYS IRISH CREAM 750 ML 13.49**

**LEJON CHAMPAGNE 750 ML 2.69**

**ROBERT MONDAVI TABLE WINES 1.5 Ltr. 3.99**

**CHRISTIAN BROS. Cabernet 750 ML 2/\$6**

**CHRISTIAN BROS. Chenin Blanc or Grey Riesling 750 ML 2.79**

**ALMADEN Table Wines 3.0 Ltr. 4.69**

**FRESH-PACK WINES 4.0 BOX. 3.79**

**COCA COLA, DIET COKE, TAB OR SPRITE 1.59**

**6 PACK-CANS**

**HENRY WEINHARD'S BEER DARK OR LIGHT 2.49**

**6 PACK BOTTLES**

**Berkeley 1316 University Ave. Few Blocks East of San Pablo**

**El Cerrito 10560 San Pablo Ave. Jay Vee Center**

**Pinole 2975 Pinole Valley Rd. Across From Pinole High**

**Albany 759 San Pablo Ave.**

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**BAR-B-Q PRODUCTS • JAY VEE • MAGAZINES**



**A FOLKSY BUSINESS** — Chamber of Commerce President Bob Smith assists Helen and Helen Dickie, owners of Helen's Designs, 1021 San Pablo Ave., with membership papers. Their shop sells ant, folk and dancing clothes for men and women. They offer western wear accessories and ste

**Cities receive cigarette tax**

State Controller Kenneth Cory announced the distribution of \$6,836,675 to counties and cities as the February apportionment of cigarette tax.

El Cerrito received \$9,323, Albany got \$3,474. Contra Costa County received \$28,000, and Alameda County got \$31,625. Rte 58 counties share was \$1,245,238 and the cities' share totaled \$5,591,437.

This distribution represents 30 percent of the revenue deposited in the Cigarette Tax Fund during the month of January, 1984, less the State's administrative costs of \$42,075.

Let us know... If your school, club or church is having an event, tell us.

Times Journal, 1247 Solano Ave. Albany 94706.

## Neighbors

By CLARA RAE GENSER

Walking in someone else's shoes can be a very difficult trick — particularly if that someone else was extremely successful in what she undertook. This is what Judith Sage, an El Cerrito resident, discovered.

Judith chaired the recent Temple Beth Hillel Purim Carnival and Bazaar. For the past few years the event has been primarily a carnival for children. But previous to that it was a great community-wide event of fun, games, prizes, food and more food, and was anticipated and enjoyed widely and hugely. All this was under the careful guidance of then chairperson Mildred Mizrahi.

Michelle Waxman was in charge of the boutique; Anne Herrod, the silent auction; Fern Rubinstein, the candy and bake shop; Sally and Jeff Gordon, Irene Morgan and Sandy Kalbfeld, the very important kitchen committee, and Sanford Wichner, Al Kipnis and Josh Genser designed and built the booths.

Do office parties really have to be held during the holidays? Dr. Edward E. Collins didn't think so, and so the Richmond dentist and his wife, Theo, who live in Kensington, recently took his staff and their partners out "on the town" for an office party.

The evening began with dinner at Mama's Restaurant in the Gramercy Towers in San Francisco, after which they all trooped to the 1177 Club (in the same building) to enjoy "Lyrics by Mercer," a joyous review of Johnny Mercer songs.

The large party included Anne and Frank George and Georgia Shumann, Dr. Michael and Todorovic, John Todorovic, Margery Cook, Wagner, Lola and Paul Gustafson, June Wagner and Jackie Bill, Kathy Lopez, Roland de la Torre, Bray, David Marchant and Irene and Louis Bill.

Albany resident Gwyneth McMillan is writing to Missoula, Montana to meet with her daughter, Susan Stokes, and help her plan for her wedding. Important decisions must be made. Will the ceremony be a large high atop a nearby hill, or in a small church?

Susan will marry fellow student Andy June. Last month she flew to her mother's home with sisters Beverly Flindt and Marilyn Glass, who are her attendants, and to pick out materials and design the dresses of both bride and attendants. The climax when their father, George Stokes, took them to the ballet in San Francisco.

Brother Walter, now living in Thompson Falls, Idaho, will also be part of the wedding party, and his young son, Benjamin, will be ring bearer.

Susan will make their home near her medical school he attends after his graduation from the University of Missoula this June. Susan will continue studies there.

(If you have a celebration, event or activity you like to share with us, please call your correspondent, Clara-Rae Genser, at 525-4585. Or drop a line to 555 Pierce St., No. 443, Albany, CA 94706. We'll know, and let others know, what is happening in County, including El Cerrito, Kensington, and Albany.

## Landscape architect sets gardening course

ALBANY — East Bay landscape architect Gotzenberg will teach a 10-meeting landscaping course starting Thursday, March 29.

Registrants will learn proper and easy ways to shape, transplant and replant shrubs. Re-seeding, creating lawns during the critical months of April and May will be covered.

Gotzenberg will also teach about proper bush and tree layouts, low maintenance gardens, soil drainage, and other landscaping fundamentals.

Gotzenberg has served as vice-president of the American Institute of Landscape Architects. His graphs have appeared in House and Garden, Beautiful, and Arizona Highway magazines.

Call Albany Adult School at 526-6811 for first-night registration procedures. Classes will be held at Albany High, from 7 to 9 p.m. in Room 108. \$27.

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MON-FRI 10:00-7:00

SAT. 10-6

SUN. 10-5

### OVEN READY PRODUCTS

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Chicken Breasts 3.19 LB.

Roasting Chicken 1.49 LB.

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Meat Loaf 1.69 LB.

We Make Our Own Sausage 2.29 LB.

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2.29 LB.

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Sea Legs • Baby

Bay Scallops • Shrimp •

Oysters • Sole •

Salmon • Snapper •

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Fresh Frozen Halibut



# High school roundup

## ALBANY

**BASEBALL** — The Cougars won one and lost two last week. On Friday, March 23, against San Leandro the Cougars scored a run in each of the first four innings to come away with a 4-2 win. Winning pitcher Doug Roney went six-and-a-half-innings. Kevin Tannahill relieved. Standouts at the plate were Logan Katka who had two hits and drove in two runs and David Wilson who belted a triple and a single and scored twice.

On March 19, the Cougars lost to Alameda 5-2. On March 21, they lost to Encinal 11-7. Coach John Goetz likes the young squad with its four starting sophomores.

"We're going to be in the race all the way," he said. The club's overall record is 5-4; the league record is 2-2.

**GOLF** — Len Pytel finished third in the Tilden Park Golf Club's 36-hole Jack Fisher Trophy tournament played Feb. 26 and March 4 at Tilden. Pytel's net score was 143. Bob Gray (144) and Stan Bovich (146) won pro shop certificates.

**TRACK** — On March 22, against Alameda at Cougar Field, the boys' varsity won 75-61, the girls won 88-35. A combined freshman-sophomore team won 90-46.

**David Reed**, senior, competing in his last meet before accompanying coach Joe Cruz on a spring trip to Mexico, won the half-mile, the two-mile, and finished second in the mile. He was also a member of the winning mile relay time.

**Bob Woolford**, freshman, competing with the varsity, "enabled us to win the meet," said Cruz. Woolford finished second in the 300-meter 110-meter hurdles. He also placed third in the triple jump.

Also starring was **Marc Sorko-Ram** who long-jumped 21 feet, and won the 100 meter dash. Cruz said the 21-foot effort on the slow Couger runway was an outstanding accomplishment.

**SOFTBALL** — Correspondent Marty Bandvik reports the Albany Middle School's seventh grade girls opened the season with a wild, come-from-behind, 9-8 win over Fremont.

The Cobras trailed 8-0 before their bats came alive. Hitting stars for Albany were **Zenia Harris**, who had three singles, and **Jenny Laird**, who stroked a three-run homer.

## EL CERRITO

**BASEBALL** — For the second straight game, El Cerrito won despite an anemic offense. Against Pinole Valley on March 22, the Gauchos, led by perennial standout **James "Pops" Mitchell**, notched a 3-0 win on only two hits.

Mitchell did it all. His double and triple were the only E.C. hits, and on the mound he blanked the Panthers with four hits.

The Gauchos are now 2-0 in RBAL play and 5-0-1 overall. Pinole Valley's record is 1-1 in league play, 3-3 overall.

The defending North Coach Section champion Gauchos opened the league season March 20, with a 5-3 win over the Berkeley Yellowjackets.

Reliever Brian Nichols struck out six of the seven batters he faced and didn't allow a hit. The Gauchos were outhit 7-3, but made the most of their hits. **Antoine Pickett** scored three runs without getting a hit. He walked twice, reached base on an error, and stole three bases. **Johnny Perkins** had a triple, a single

## Marathon aids CF fund

A 3-hour "aerob-a-thon" will be held Saturday, March 31 from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. as a fundraiser for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation of Northern California.

The event will be held at the Veterans' Memorial Building, 2203 Central Ave., Alameda.

Participants can collect pledges of support from family and friends for every minute they work out or a direct donation can be made at the door. No registration fee will be charged.

The top fundraising participants will receive prizes. The event is sponsored by Bodyworks & Co.

and stole a base.

**SOFTBALL** — The Gauchos stayed unbeaten with a 13-12 squeaker over Richmond. The Oilers staged a furious seven-inning rally to pull from 13-8 to 13-12 until reliever **Karryl Smith**, who also had three hits on the day, slammed the door on the rally. **Dina Ellis** went 4-4 at the plate and stole a base. **Angelina Daniels** drove in two runs.

El Cerrito won its second straight RBAL game with a 15-9 victory over Berkeley

on March 20. Karryl Smith led the attack with two doubles and a single and drove in two runs.

The Gaucho girls defeated De Anza March 19 with a score of 15-10 in the RBAL opener. Sophomore **Shelly Kinnison** banged out three hits in four trips to the plate. She also pitched two hitless innings, striking out four, as she took the mound for the first time.

The junior varsity lost to De Anza 16-12 on March 19, and bounced back to defeat Berkeley the next

day 23-17.

**PINTO LEAGUE** — The Lions mauled the Eagles 17-10 on March 23. **Kevin Parrish** hit a home run and had three hits; **Joel Papo** had a homer, a triple and a double for the winners. For the Eagles, **Max Werner** and **Corey Baker** each had three hits.

The defending Pinto League champion Bobcats bombed the Rangers 19-10 Saturday. **Donnell Carson**, who went 3-3 on the day, homered for the winners, as did **Bobby McHenry**.

## Summer day camps planned for EC parks

**EL CERRITO** — The City of El Cerrito Recreation Division will offer a summer daycamp program, June 18 through Aug. 31 for children ages 4-14 years.

The El Cerrito Community Center is now accepting applications for day camp directors, leaders, assistant leaders, counselors in training and volunteers to staff the summer program.

The program serves 235 children weekly at five camp sites with a staff of 30 summer employees. Activities include recreational and educational activities centered around a weekly theme, excursions, special events, swimming lessons, and tennis lessons. Each camp site offers a slightly different program.

Applications are available at the Community Center, 7007 Moeser Lane and will be accepted through April 6. Interviews will be scheduled during Easter break. For more information please call Barbara Schultz-Creamer at 525-6748.

## Easter hat parade slated for young

**EL CERRITO** — The city's Community Center has planned an Easter bonnet and hat parade for children ages 3-5 on Saturday, April 21 at 10 a.m.

Children and/or parents should make the hat, which should have a spring or Easter theme. Bonnets and hats will be modeled at the Community Center and will be judged on originality, most colorful.

At the show the Easter Bunny will be in the Community Center and will award ribbons to all participants.

Register at the El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Moeser Lane, through April 20. Entry fee is \$1.00. Registration will be taken at the door.

Following the parade there will be a candy hunt for preschool and kindergarten children.

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<b>MRS. GRASS SOUP</b>	.73
Chicken Noodle - Twin Pack	5 oz.
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<b>EGG NOODLES</b>	.63
Perfection - Extra Wide	12 oz.
<b>KRAFT DINNER</b>	.45
Macaroni & Cheese	7.25 oz.
<b>TEA BAGS</b>	2.97
Lipton 100's	8 oz.
<b>SNOW'S CLAMS</b>	.99
Chopped or Minced	.05 oz.
<b>CHUNK TUNA</b>	.70
Bumble Bee - in Oil or Water	.05 oz.
<b>CORNED BEEF HASH</b>	1.29
Libby's	15 oz.
<b>CHEEZ-IT</b>	1.47
Sunshine Crackers	10 oz.
<b>BORDEN'S SNACKS</b>	.89
Fried Curls 6.5 oz., Cheez Balls 5 oz., Pretzels 7 oz. or Corn Chips 7.5 oz.	pkgs.
<b>DIET BEVERAGES</b>	.21
Lady Lee - Caffeine Free Cola, Black Cherry, Cola, Creme Soda, Grape, Lemon-Lime, Orange or Root Beer	12 oz.
<b>COCA-COLA</b>	3.39
12 oz. cans - Regular or Diet Coke	12 pack
<b>PEANUT BUTTER</b>	2.53
Skippy - Creamy or Chunk	28 oz.
<b>IMPERIAL</b>	1.75
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<b>ORANGE JUICE</b>	1.87
Tropicana	64 oz.
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Lady Lee	gallons



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The program serves 235 children weekly at five camp sites with a staff of 30 summer employees. Activities include recreational and educational activities centered around a weekly theme, excursions, special events, swimming lessons, and tennis lessons. Each camp site

## Election '84

## Albany Council candidates ready for big day

## Robert Cheasty



**Robert Cheasty**, 35, is a member of the Waterfront Committee and the Pension Advisory Committee. He was head of the pension subcommittee which wrote the 1983 report on the fire and police pension fund. Cheasty is a lawyer and head of the legal department of the Carpenters Trust Funds in San Francisco. He has represented the Carpenter Trust Funds before state and federal agencies. He has been a fundraiser for the Albany YMCA, and has lived in Albany for two years.

**A**LBANY — According to Robert Cheasty, closing the city's landfill, making decisions about waterfront development and working with the Santa Fe Co. could be major goals of the next council.

Cheasty, a member of the Waterfront Committee, said the council's short-term goal should be to get the \$2.5 million the state has appropriated for closing the landfill, if not released.

He said the council and the community also should begin to ask what type of development would be appropriate along the waterfront, including the Golden Gate Fields and other property owned by the Santa Fe Land Improvement Co.

"There are a lot of decisions to be made about developers," Cheasty said. "We need to work with the rest of the governments and Santa Fe on the (East Bay) shoreline project, and not be intimidated by Santa Fe."

Although taxes from Golden Gate Fields make up about 22 percent of the city's general fund, Cheasty said the loss of the race track "should not be viewed as a horrible possibility."

"Golden Gate takes up a huge amount of space and you could put something in which was much smaller and brought in just as much revenue," he said.

Here are Cheasty's position on other issues:

• **Pension:** Cheasty called the surtax, which the council has passed for two years to fund the pension system, "a temporary stopper."

"I think (the council) has to deal with the problem head on and not keep imposing the surtax," he said.

Cheasty, a member of the Pension Advisory Committee, said the solution to the pension system's financial woes were a voter-approved tax and an agreement limiting future pension increases.

"The city needs to enter into dialogue with the pensioners to save the plan by voluntarily compromising, and the citizens must be willing to vote in a tax," he said.

• **City finances:** Cheasty said the city's financial outlook did not appear as gloomy as recently predicted, because the city's sales tax and race tax were up. He said the problem was the state's refusal to return more of the tax money to the cities.

If the state continues to withhold money, residents might have to decide whether to tax themselves or lose services like the ambulance, he said.

• **Police wage hikes:** Cheasty said the police should receive the same 2.3 percent wage hike as the fire fighters. He said there should be "basic parity" between the two groups' wages, because the risks associated with their jobs are similar.

(Continued on Page 15)

## Ruth Ganong



**Ruth Ganong**, 60, has served four years on the City Council, two of these as mayor. She served eight years on the Board of Education, two of these as president. She is a member of the Alameda County Training and Employment Board, county Manpower Advisory Board, county Solid Waste Management Authority, county Commission on the Status of Women and county Library Advisory Committee. She is also a member of the League of California Cities Public Safety Committee. She is also on the board of the county Heart Association, the county March of Dimes and the city's YMCA. She is a graduate of Smith College and has a certificate from the Boston Architectural Center. She has lived in Albany for 29 years.

**A**LBANY — Mayor Ruth Ganong says if she is reelected to the City Council her priority will be finding a stable system of city financing.

"In my 12 years of public life, we have not been able to plan properly," said Ganong, who served eight years on the school board and four on the council. "The budget has always been off."

Since Proposition 13, the property-tax rollback passed in 1978, Albany, like other cities, has depended on the state for much of its budget. Ganong said she would lobby Sacramento for a consistent method of allocating money to California cities.

City Treasurer Jo Ann Connor and City Administrator William Haden recently told the council the city could face cuts in service during the next fiscal year if state did not return more of the tax money to the city or local residents refused to raise taxes.

While Ganong said she believed this prediction was too gloomy, she said that if the city's revenue continued to fall, cuts in the public safety departments might be the result.

"And I don't want to that," she said. "We are committed to maintaining public safety."

She said residents may have to share more of the cost of maintaining city services and the infrastructure of the city. She said, for example, the council might consider requiring residents to pay half the cost of maintaining the sidewalks, especially those with camphor trees, the roots of which crack the sidewalks.

Here are Ganong's positions on the issues:

• **Pension:** Ganong said she supported continuing the annual surtax on property owners. She said she did not support placing the tax before the voters, who might vote to stop the funding and cause a lawsuit.

"I can't see asking voters to vote on something that would put the city in the position of doing something illegal."

• **Police wage hike:** Ganong said she did not support

more than a 2.3 percent wage hike for police department employees.

• **Appointed police chief:** Ganong said she supported appointing rather than electing the police chief. She said the city would get a larger pool of qualified applicants and the police officers would have a better shot at promotions.

"The officers can't run against an elected chief, because the fact is the department is organized in such a way they can't challenge the chief," said Ganong.

Asked if her desire for an appointed police chief was motivated by dislike of current Chief James Simmons, she responded, "that is really unfair. It is true of others, but that is not my motivation for wanting it."

• **Appointed city attorney:** Ganong said she also supports appointing the city attorney.

"I think ringing doorbells and convincing the electorate may not be the best way to choose a city attorney," Ganong said.

She said she supports putting the issue of an appointed versus elected police chief and city attorney on the November, 1984 ballot.

• **Waterfront:** Ganong said she supports waterfront development which includes "lots of access to the shoreline." She said she hopes the Golden Gate Fields property could be developed into "something more meaningful for the area and used more than 120 days a year," and generate as much tax money for the city as the race track.

• **Mayor's term of office:** Ganong, who has served two terms as mayor, said the council should decide whether the mayor should serve one or two years. Ganong said she supported a two-year term, because the mayor got more experience and the city benefits from the experience.

• **Council positions:** Ganong says generally the council should not take a position on state, national or foreign policy issues. But she said she asked the council to endorse a state bill aimed at preventing members of private clubs, discriminating against women, from taking advantage of tax deductions, because the practice could affect Albany women.

• **Measure A:** Ganong said she supported Measure A, calling it a technical change. If the measure is approved, she said alternates would have a responsibility to be informed before casting a vote.

## Candidate profiles

by Frances Thomas

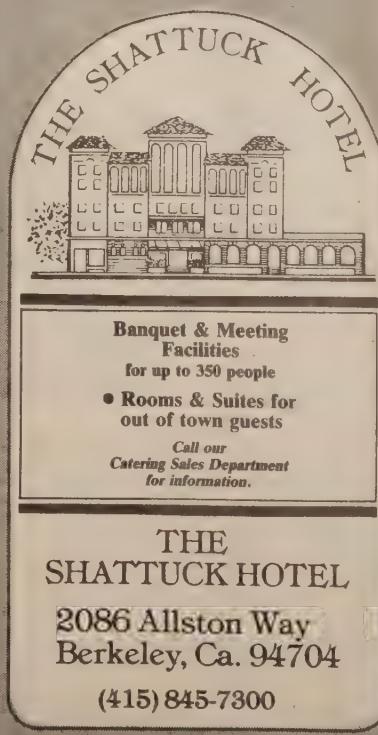
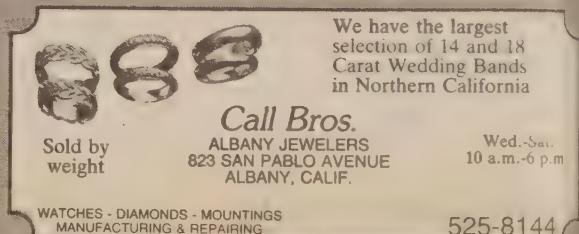
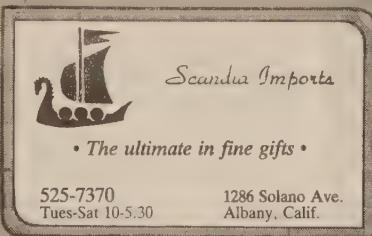
(Continued on Page 15)

(Continued on

# For a - Beautiful Beginning



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**Election '84****CHEASTY**

(Continued from Page 13)

Appointed police chief: Cheasty refused to say whether he supported an appointed or elected police chief, saying the issue needs further study. Although Cheasty said there were a lot of problems with an elected chief, he said the issue had become a personality clash that threatened to divide the city.

Asked if there were any advantages to having an elected chief, he said, "Presumably there is the advantage of having a chief responsible to the voters. I don't know if that is true."

**LUOMA**

(Continued from Page 13)

"The city has to pay, no one else will," Luoma said. "Police wage hike: Luoma said he has been involved in labor negotiations before and hesitates to take a position. However, he said he doubted the council could settle with the police employees for 2.3 percent, which he said I think when enough people realize the city has an obligation to its employees to pay the pensions, people will not take into account the inflation rate."

"I don't have any problem paying for protection," Luoma said. "It is like insurance."

Appointed police chief — Luoma said he was not in favor of an appointed police chief. He said the city was "well-served" by James Simmons, the city elected chief. "We have had no problems with the (current) sys-

tem," he said.

Appointed city attorney: Cheasty also said the city attorney should remain an elected official. But he said he "wouldn't be averse to putting (the issues) on the ballot" and letting voters decide whether the two positions should be elected or appointed.

Waterfront — Luoma said he did not want "to speculate about what the city will do in 15 years" when Golden Gate Fields' lease with the Santa Fe Co. will either expire or be renewed.

"The track brings in a tremendous amount of money to the city," he said. "The best thing to do is let sleeping dogs lie and not even rock the boat in that direction."

Mayor's term of office: Luoma says he does not support two-term mayors. He said every person elected to the council should have an opportunity to be mayor, and "if one person serves more than once, then somebody else

council should decide whether the term should be one or two years and put the policy into effect in two years."

Council positions: Cheasty said the council should "keep to the business of Albany." But he said he "probably" would have endorsed the state bill prohibiting tax deductions for meals at clubs which exclude women.

"I might occasionally stray and make a stand on an issue, but would keep the focus on municipal government," he said.

Measure A: Cheasty said he supported Measure A.

**ISSUES**

(Continued from Page 13)

ballot, but later dropped the issue.

Police Chief James Simmons opposes changing to an appointed system. City Attorney Robert Zweben says as long as the police chief remains an elected position so should the city attorney. The issues, especially the question of an appointed police chief, are complicated by a apparent antagonism between Simmons and supporters of an appointed chief.

Waterfront — The candidates were asked what were appropriate land uses for the Albany waterfront.

The Santa Fe Land Improvement Co. owns 138 acres of drylands at the Albany waterfront. The property includes the site of Golden Gate Fields, whose lease expires in 1997. The track pays about \$600,000 a year (or 22 percent of the city general fund) to the city in taxes. Santa Fe is not saying whether the track will continue to operate after 1997.

Recently the Waterfront Committee recommended the city begin evaluating land uses for the waterfront, preparing for the time when Santa Fe may want to develop its land.

Mayor's term of office — The candidates were asked how long a mayor should serve.

Several council members have served more than one term (one year) as mayor, including current Mayor Ruth Ganong. The council's selection of Ganong has caused some antagonism and political tension among council members.

The candidates were asked their positions on the council taking stands on state and national issues.

Recently the council endorsed a state assembly bill prohibiting members of male-only clubs from taking a tax deduction on meals eaten at the club. Last year the council refused to endorse the Fast for Life, which sought to ease nuclear tensions.

Measure A — The candidates were asked their positions on Measure A, a charter amendment which allows alternates to serve and vote on the Pension Board, which administers the Police and Fire Pension Fund. Alternates have served regularly in the past, but the charter has never been amended to allow this practice.

**NICHOLS**

(Continued from Page 13)

the citizen who is eligible to take his place. Our citizens deserve better. They deserve a choice."

Appointed city attorney: If the police chief is appointed, Nichols said the city attorney also should be appointed.

"The best argument for an appointed city attorney is that the (council) needs different legal talent we can go and get it," said Nichols, who added the city might need a good litigation lawyer for a time, but later need a lawyer who specializes in contracts.

Nichols said he would support putting a measure in the November, 1984, ballot asking voters if the city should have an appointed police chief and city attorney.

Waterfront: Nichols said he hoped the racetrack remained in Albany, but said long-range planning should continue now, "because if we wait until 1996 or 1997 Santa Fe will have a gun at our head," he said.

If Santa Fe refused to work with the city, Nichols said it was possible for the city to condemn Santa Fe's property

under the city's right of eminent domain and hire its own developer.

Nichols said he wanted public access along the waterfront shoreline.

Mayor's term of office: Nichols said the city could benefit from a two-term mayor's experience and political contacts at the county and state levels. But he said there were times when a change was needed and he would not support making a two-term mayor a council policy.

Council positions: Nichols said generally the council should not take positions on state and national issues, partly because council members have not always studied these issues. But he said he endorsed the state bill which would end tax deductions on meals eaten at male-only clubs, because of a strong belief that "discrimination on any basis is improper."

Measure A: Nichols said he supported Measure A, calling it a "common sense" proposal, which will ensure that a majority of the pension board will be available to authorize pension payments each month.

doesn't get the chance."

Luoma said, however, a one-term limit should be an informal rather than official council policy.

Council positions: Luoma said the council "had no business getting involved in national affairs." He said he did not support the council's recent endorsement of a state bill prohibiting tax deductions for meals at private clubs which exclude women.

Measure A: Luoma said he did not support the measure. Although he said he was not opposed to allowing the vice-mayor to alternate for the mayor on the pension board, he said city hall department heads should not be allowed to "abdicate" their responsibilities to others.

"I wouldn't like to think that they are too lazy to do the job," he said. "If they are, we should get somebody else."

All candidates for city council, city treasurer, and board of education, will be asked to participate.

Candidates will make a five minute presentation of their qualifications and platform, after which they will participate in a question-and-answer period. Questions to the candidates must be presented in writing to the moderator during the meeting.

Lawrence J. Hughes, the principal of Vista School and the Adult School, will be the moderator.

The meeting is sponsored by Albany Post No. 292, of The American Legion.

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**Journal class slated**

Progoi, and Marion Milner.

Classes will be held from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Tuesdays, beginning April 3, at the Berkeley-Richmond Jewish Community Center, 1414 Walnut, Berkeley.

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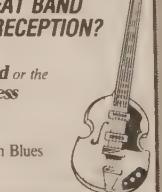
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# Obituaries

## Lewis Howell

ALBANY — Former Mayor Lewis "Lou" M. Howell, who served on the City Council for 26 years, died last week in a Berkeley hospital. He was 74.

Howell, who was born in Sodus, N.Y. and lived in Albany for many years, died March 21.

He was appointed to the City Council in 1952 and served continuously until 1980, except for a two year hiatus. He was mayor for 13 years.

A longtime friend called him "the dean of Albany politicians." As mayor, Howell helped to devise the county gas tax formula which allows cities a fair share of the state gasoline tax. He also worked to establish a uniform sales tax formula.

Howell lobbied in Sacramento to defeat a state bill which would have banned the city's tax on Golden Gate Fields admissions, an important source of city revenue.

During his tenure, the Albany library and the city hall were built, both of which he worked to accomplish.

Jerome Blank, who served with Howell for 10 years on the council, said, "He was a very dedicated person. He worked hard on the council, and he was practical."

Howell was a former manager and buyer for Park and Shop Market in Berkeley and retired from the company after 25 years. He was a member of the Bayview Aerie 2323 Fraternal Order of Eagles, Berkeley Lodge 1002 the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and the Retail Clerks Union.

He was a fundraiser for community groups, including the American Field Service, the Boy Scouts, Girls Scouts,



Club Scouts and Albany High Band Booster.

Lee Keck, who served with Howell on the council, recalled Howell donated food when these clubs planned pancake breakfasts or spaghetti feeds.

"He always gave to the city," Keck said.

Howell is survived by his wife Hazel of Albany; sons Donald and John of El Sobrante; daughters Diane Fries and Lynn Gogna of El Cerrito, and Marilyn Howell of Albany; a brother, Joseph Howell of New York; a sister, Shirley Alcalde of Valencia; and five grandchildren.

Funeral services were held March 24 at Ellis-Olson Mortuary in Albany. Memorials may be sent to a favorite charity.

## Frieda Wolff

EL CERRITO — A memorial gathering will be held Sunday, April 1, at the First Unitarian Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Road, Kensington, for Frieda Wolff.

Mrs. Wolff died at her El Cerrito home March 22 at the age of 70.

The president of the California Gray Panthers, Mrs. Wolff previously taught in rural schools in northern California. During World War II, she worked in public relations for the 12th Naval District.

Volunteering for Red Cross duty, she served with Allied troops in England, France, Belgium and Germany, and was the last American woman evacuated from Bastogne during the Battle of the Bulge, before German troops entered the city.

After the war, Mrs. Wolff toured the country raising money for the Red Cross. As northern California director of the Spanish Refugee Appeal and Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee committee, she raised money for victims of the Spanish civil war.

During the 1950s and 60s, Mrs. Wolff stores in Carmel, and later operated a book-business in Oakland. In recent years, she was a Congress of California Seniors and the West County Gray Panthers. She was elected state president in 1983.

Survivors include her husband, Milton Wolff; Eda Bicknell of Oakland; a brother, Ernest Salazar; Santa Cruz; two stepchildren, a niece and two nephews.

The family suggests memorial contributions to the Agape Foundation, c/o San Francisco Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, 500 Market Street, San Francisco 94102.

## Class explores student dreams are made

Two dream workshops are being offered by Mrs. Wolff's Vista College.

Participants may enroll in one or both of the two workshops. The first takes place Mondays, 2:30-4:30 p.m., April 30, at the North Berkeley Senior Center, Hwy. 24, Martin Luther King Jr. Way.

Cost is \$10 for seniors, \$20 general.

A second workshop, April 26-June 7, is on days, from 7-9 p.m., at Vista College, 2020 Mission St., Rm. 203. Cost is \$14 for seniors, \$28 general.

Register through Vista College or at the meeting. Phone 841-8431 for information.

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# Clubs

## ALBANY

**Squares:** Square dance with Ron Haggerty of the Dance Squares every Tuesday night, Albany Middle School, 1000 Jackson. Beginners class from 7 to 8:30 p.m.; intermediate plus brush up class, 8:30 to 10:15. For information call 526-7539.

**Poachettes:** Ramona Council 206, Degree of Pocahontas meets the second and fourth Monday of each month at the Albany United Methodist Church, 980 Orange Ave., 8 p.m.

**Workshop:** meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 1917 Carlson Blvd., El Cerrito, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., making craft articles.

**Albany Lions Club:** meets every Thursday at El Cerrito Station at 6:45 p.m. For information, call 527-8298.

**Albany Rotary:** Albany Rotary Club meets Tuesday 12-15 p.m. at Spenger's Fish Grotto in Berkeley.

**Frosting Freaks:** Frosting Freaks, a cake-decorating club meets in Albany the fourth Thursday of each month. For further information, call 234-9184.

**Scandinavian Club:** Framat Lodge, Vasa Order of America, meets once a month at the Albany Temple, 533 San Pablo Ave. Activities include dinners, cultural events, dances. For more information, call 527-3134.

**Bridge club:** The club meets at noon on Mondays and Thursdays at the University Village Community Center, 120 8th St. For more information, call 232-6689.

**American Legion:** Albany Post 292 meets the first Friday of the month for dinner and the third Friday for a business meeting at the Veterans Memorial Building, 1325 Franklin Ave.

**American Legion Auxiliary:** Albany Unit 292 meets at the Veterans Memorial Building the second Monday of each month at 8 p.m.

**Golden Gate Lionesses:** Albany Lionesses Club meets the first and third Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. at Kirby's in El Cerrito Plaza.

**Soroptimists:** Soroptimist International of Albany meets Wednesdays at 12:15 p.m. at Kirby's in El Cerrito Plaza. Color consultant Carol Westphal will demonstrate her work at the March 28 meeting at her home.

**Toastmasters:** This organization of men and women who wish to improve their speaking, listening and leadership skills has five clubs in the Albany area. For information call Michael Jay at 848-5451.

**Scrabble:** Albany Scrabble Players Club 41 has changed the day of its meetings from Sundays to Wednesdays. Starting at 1 p.m. the club will play three games of 1 hour each. For reservations and information, call Isabelle Eaton at 526-8675.

At the last meeting of the club, Merle London of Berkeley was high winner, winning three out of three

games. David Sanger of Albany has reached the B rank, having completed 50 games and winning 50 expert points.

**Chorus:** The Berkeley Women's Chorus meets Thursday morning at 10 a.m. at the First Baptist Church, at Solano and Pomona. No auditions are held; only requisite is the love of singing.

**Booster Bingo:** Albany Booster bingo meets every Saturday at Albany Middle School, 1000 Jackson St. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Games start at 7.

## EL CERRITO

**TOPS:** The El Cerrito TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) Club, 1941 meets every Wednesday morning at 10 a.m. at 6830 Stockton Ave. For more information call 232-2272.

**Toastmistresses:** The USDA Toastmistress Club meets the first Saturday each month from 9 to 11 a.m. at Kirby's in El Cerrito Plaza. For information call 524-2530 or 529-2804.

**Dancers:** Learn to square dance with the Buzzin Cuzzi Square dance Club of El Cerrito. Every Monday, at 7 p.m. at the Veteran's Memorial Hall, 6401 Stockton Ave. For information call 222-0505 or 526-8647.

**Bridge club:** Free continuing bridge lessons on Thursdays at Fairmount Recreation Center a 7 p.m. Duplicate game follows. Duplicate games also on Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m.

**Kiwanis:** The Albany-El Cerrito Kiwanis meets Tuesday at 7:30 a.m. at Carrow's Restaurant, 6120 Potrero Ave., El Cerrito.

**El Cerrito Rotary:** El Cerrito Rotary meets Thursday at 12:15 p.m. at Cerrito City Club, 1600 Kearney.

**El Cerrito Lions:** The El Cerrito Lions Club meets Tuesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. at the Cerrito City Club, 1600 Kearney. The club collects old or unused eye glasses, which it sends abroad. Drop off: Sunshine Cleaners, 10750 San Pablo Ave.

**Salt Water Revival:** The El Cerrito Salt Water Revival Skin and Scuba Diving Club meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 8 p.m. at Harding Park clubhouse, 7115 C St. For information call 525-6229.

**Coin Club:** The North Bay Coin club meets the third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Tassajara Park club house, Tassajara and Barrett, El Cerrito. No meeting in December.

## KENSINGTON

**NAACP:** The Bay area ACT-SO Committee of the NAACP will present a musical program on March 30, at 7:30 p.m. at the First Unitarian Church, 1 Lawson Road, Kensington. The program will include pianists William Duncan Allen, Teknalber Winesberry and Victoria

Theodore; organist Orrin Suthern; singers Lorice Stevens, Tom Jones and Hannibal Means; oboist Dennis Harper and Bill Bell and the New Traveling Voices under the direction of Jackie Hairston.

**Patricia Freeman:** is coordinator for the ACT-SO (Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics) fund raisers and competitions. N. Constance Beatty and William Duncan Allen are music co-chairpersons.

Tickets may be obtained from Iola Riley at 638-6791 or Patricia Freeman at 524-5462, or at the door: \$7.50/\$5 students and senior citizens.

**Singlets:** The Singles Club of the First Unitarian Church schedules many activities, including yoga, sing-alongs, dinners, dances, work parties and theatre parties. For information, call 486-5529 (days) or 525-2299 (evenings).

## THOUSAND OAKS

**Northbrae Women:** On Wednesday, March 28, Northbrae Women's Club will have a dessert and fashion show at 1 p.m., with fashions from Sather Gate Apparel Shop.

**Overeaters Anonymous:** Meets every Monday night at 7:30 p.m. at Northbrae Community Church, upstairs in the 4th-5th grade room. No dues, fees or weigh-ins. For further information call 569-1374 and leave a message.

## OTHER COMMUNITIES

**Toastmistresses:** International Toastmistress Club will meet at 5:45 p.m. on Tuesday, April 3, at South Berkeley Library, 1901 Russell St. The organization offers members and guests the opportunity to develop their leadership skills and increase communicative abilities as a listener and speaker. For information call Loretta Newsom at 522-7221, ext. 300 or 536-0638.

**Attorneys:** Alameda Contra Costa Trial Lawyers Association presents an accident reconstruction seminar featuring Roy Cornwall and Rick Stuart, with East Bay trial lawyers Tom Schrag and Lew Van Blois conducting demonstrations regarding the use of reconstruction experts and demonstrative evidence on Tuesday, April 3, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Holiday Inn in Emeryville.

**Organs:** The East Bay Home Organ Society presents, on Sunday, April 8, Jerry Nagano in concert. The event will be at the Hyatt Oakland, Hegenberger Rd.

A social hour at 1 p.m., featuring incidental music, and luncheon at 2 p.m. will precede the 3 p.m. concert. Cost for luncheon is \$9.50 for members, \$11.50 for guests. Reservations must be made by April 6, by calling 531-6035 or 547-2258.

**Barbershop:** Chorus rehearsals are held every Mon-

day at the Berkeley Elks Club, 2018 Alston Way, Berkeley, at 8 p.m. Men are welcome to join. For information, please call 525-SING.

**Men:** The Men's Forum of the North Congregational Church, 2138 Cedar St., Berkeley, meets 9:30-10:30 a.m., Sunday mornings.

**Sweet Adelines:** The Harmony Bay Chapter of Sweet Adelines welcomes new members on Wednesday evenings, at the first Congregational Church of Berkeley, 2345 Channing Way, in Berkeley, at 7:30 p.m. For information, call Dene at 526-5587 or Carol at 233-5743.

**Bridge:** The Live Oak Bridge Club is a non-profit community group that sponsors regular duplicate bridge sessions at the Live Oak Community Center in Berkeley.

For information, contact Dick Evans at 843-4605.

**Radio Club:** The East Bay Amateur Radio Club is devoted to furthering interest in amateur radio, participation in emergency radio service, and helping those interested in obtaining amateur radio licenses.

Meetings are held second Friday of the month at 7:30 p.m., at Salvation Army Center, 36th and Rheem, Richmond. For information call Fred at 233-2076, or Don at 237-1381.

## Grand jury wants you

April 30 is the deadline for applications for persons interested in joining the Contra Costa County Grand Jury.

The jury is composed of 19 persons whose names are determined by drawing from approximately 60 individuals interviewed by the Superior Court's Grand Jury Selection Committee.

The jury serves for one year, monitoring county government and special districts, and issues an annual report. It also considers evidence for criminal indictments.

A grand juror receives \$10 for each day of service and reimbursement for transportation to and from the courthouse.

A grand juror must be a United States citizen, at least 18 years old and a Contra Costa County resident for at least one year. Each juror spends approximately 20 hours a week on Grand Jury business, either meeting as a body or serving on a committee.

Applicants may either send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to the Office of the Jury Commissioner, Room 108, Courthouse, PO Box 1110, Martinez, 94553, or drop by between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. to get an application.

All applications must be received by the Jury Commissioner's Office before 5 p.m. on April 30.

The jurors will be chosen at the end of June.

For more information, call 372-2345.

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ALBANY — At its winter Court of Honor, Boy Scout Troop 274 of Oakland bestowed the last four merit badges on Murray L. Eiland, III.

He earned all 116 available to boy scouts. By earning every one of the merit badges, Eiland, who became an Eagle Scout last April, joins the ranks of a very small number of scouts throughout the nation who have ever achieved this distinction.

At 15 1/2, he may be the youngest scout ever to earn

all the badges. During the four years he worked on these badges, he acquired such skills as waterskiing, horseback riding, archery, lifesaving, and backpacking.

Many of the badges involved nature studies, while others concerned scientific activities. To earn the rank of Eagle Scout a boy must have 21 badges.

Eiland plans to enter the University of California after he graduates.

## 'Mayfest' planned to aid charity groups

EL CERRITO — Kirby's Restaurant in El Cerrito Plaza is sponsoring a Mayfest, to be held Saturday, May 12, in the plaza parking lot, as a fund-raiser for non-profit organizations.

Interested groups should make booth space reservations by Monday, April 16. Kirby's will provide entertainment, security, first aid and insurance, if needed.

Organizations may offer sale items, games, information and services. The El Cerrito Albany Lions Club will have the Sight Mobile for eye testing and the unit for donating blood. Hearing tests will be given and the Albany

Fire Department will measure blood pressures.

Entertainment is being sought at this time. Bands, clowns, mimes, vocalists and musicians are invited to participate.

Co-ordinating the event are Gary Ruwet of Kirby's, Barbara Bacon of Acorn Branch, Children's Hospital and Fern Luoma, Albany Chamber of Commerce. Committee members are Albany's Fire Chief Mike Koepke, Albany's Chamber of Commerce President Bob Flynn and El Cerrito's Chamber of Commerce President Sil Addiego.

Additional information may be obtained by phoning 527-8434, 526-1311 or 235-3446.

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## Senior centers

**ALBANY**  
The center is at 846 Masonic Ave., 528-5748. Hours: Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Sunday, noon-4 p.m.

**Special Events**  
Rapid reading series, 6-week course, Wednesdays, from 7-10 p.m.; Thursdays from 4-5:30 p.m. and 6:30-8:30 p.m. Wednesday class ends March 28; Thursday evening class continues to April 5; Thursday afternoon class till April 12.

Slide show and musical accompaniment presented by radio announcer Gene Gordon on Wednesday, March 21, at 12:15 p.m. Subject: Mardi Gras.

Soroptimists of Albany will present a fund-raising, mustard-tasting and dancing party, Saturday, March 31 from 6:30-10 p.m. Price: \$7.50, includes dinner and dancing. Tickets available from members and at the center.

Yoga class, all levels, starts April 3, every Tuesday from 7:30-8:45 p.m.

No painting class on Tuesday, April 3. Instead, free transportation and admission on Wednesday, April 4, to Juan Gris exhibit at University Art Museum. Sign up at center; bus leaves at 2 p.m.

Legal assistance for Alameda County residents, by appointment, Wednesday, April 4, at 10 a.m.

General center meeting Thursday, April 5, at 12:30 p.m. All are welcome.

#### AARP Tax Assistance

Trained assistants will assist you with your federal and state income tax forms. Bring all pertinent data, including last year's tax returns. Tuesdays, 9 a.m.-noon and 1-4 p.m.; Wednesdays 9 a.m.-noon; Thursdays, 1-4 p.m.; Fridays, 9 a.m.-noon.

#### Classes

Monday: creative writing, 9 a.m.-noon; current world problems, 1-3 p.m.; crafts, noon-3 p.m.; tutorial writing, noon-2:30 p.m.

Tuesday: painting, 9 a.m.-noon; the search for meaning, 10 a.m.-noon; folk dancing, 1-3 p.m.; English as a second language, 1-3 p.m.

Wednesday: color slide photography, 9 a.m.-noon; current events, 10-noon; tutorial writing, 12:30-2:30 p.m.; Tai Chi, 1:30-2:45 p.m.; Shakespeare, 1-3 p.m.

Thursday, California writers, 1-3 p.m.

Friday: creative writing and poetry, 1-3 p.m.

Saturday: (every 4th Saturday), American short story, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.; writing, 1-4 p.m.

#### Continuing Events

Blood pressure clinic, 4th Monday every month, 1 to 3:30 p.m.

Barber service, Thursday 9 a.m.-noon. Donation requested.

Bingo, Thursday and Saturday, 10:30 a.m. Singalong, Thursday, 11:30 a.m.

Cards and conversation, Thursday, noon-5 p.m.; Saturday, noon-4 p.m.; Sunday, noon-4 p.m.

Bridge, Friday, noon-3 p.m.

Chess group, Friday at 10 a.m.

Community service, Friday, 10 a.m.-noon.

General center meeting, first Thursday every month, 12:30 p.m.

Social Security field representative at the center the first and third Friday of the month at 3 p.m. to answer questions.

#### Transportation

Call at least one day in advance for reservations for senior van shopping trips. Thursday mornings: El Cerrito Plaza. Friday mornings: Solano Avenue. Requested donation, 50 cents per round trip. Albany residents only.

Taxi scrip available to Albany residents over age 65. Price from \$4-10, depending on income. Apply Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Persons in wheelchairs may purchase special transportation vouchers.

#### Tours

Trips are sponsored by Albany Park and Recreation Dept. Make reservations with Myriam Heath, Tuesday at 1 p.m. and Thursday at 10 a.m.

April 16-20, southern California, \$315.25 per person, double occupancy; \$431 per person, single occupancy. May 16, 17, Stateline overnight, \$44.50/person, double or twin; \$66.50/person, single. May 28-June 2, Rogue River, \$480/person, double or twin; \$615/single.

#### Meals on Wheels

Home-delivered meals are available for Albany residents. The food prepared at Alta Bates Albany Hospital and is delivered at mid-day by a volunteer driver. Regular, low-salt and diabetic meals are available. \$15 per week (weekdays only).

To order, please call the center at 644-8500 one week in advance. Coordinator Margo Tyndall will make all arrangements.

#### Menus

The nutrition site meal is served at 4 p.m. Advance reservations are required. The suggested minimum donation for seniors is \$1 plus 50 cents; \$3.50 for persons under age 60. Monthly menus are available.

March 28, chicken; March 29, pork; March 30, fish; April 2, spaghetti with meat sauce; April 3, fish.

#### EL CERRITO Open House

Located at 6500 Stockton Ave., behind the library; S26-0124. Drop in lounge open weekdays from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Lunch daily at noon.

#### Classes

Mondays: 10 a.m., Tai Chi; 1 p.m. bridge or choral group; 7 p.m., family history and tradition.

Tuesdays: 9:30 and 10:15 a.m., fitness; 10 a.m., beginning drawing; 10 a.m.-2 p.m., women's hairstyling (by appointment only); 1 p.m., grocery bingo.

Wednesdays: 9:30 a.m., mild exercise; 10:30 a.m., needlework; 10:30 a.m., beginning bridge; 12:30, knitting; 1 p.m., bridge or choral group.

Thursdays: 9:30 and 10:15 a.m., fitness; 10 a.m.,

## Check Smog OUT!

California's new clean air program requires most cars and light trucks to have SMOG CHECKS every two years.

Licensed, privately-owned shops offer inspection and repair services. To find them, look for official SMOG CHECK signs. Check with your garage service, gas station, dealer or the California State Automobile Association. In the Yellow Pages, look for smog inspection services. Watch for ads and competitive prices.

Lists of shops can also be seen at the Bureau of Automotive Repair offices in program areas.

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Spanish conversation; 1-2 p.m., small applied off.

Fridays: 9 a.m., themes in world art; 9 a.m., barber, cash bingo, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Lunch: March 28, pepper steak; March 29, die; March 30, baked ham.

#### Christ Lutheran

Mondays, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at 780 Ashbury Street.

Craft classes (pressed flower stationery, jewelry, weaving) are taught in the morning, 3:30 p.m. Afternoon program of information, specialty singing, sit-down exercises and folk dancing.

The program is co-sponsored by the Richmond School Adult Education program.

#### St. John's Center

St. John's senior center meets every Tuesday a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Catacombs building, 615 Lexington Street, El Cerrito. For information, call Gans, 529-1114.

The Center is part of the Richmond Unified Education Program. 9 a.m., crafts; noon, lectures. After lunch, the group has community sitdown exercises and folkdancing until 2 p.m.

Any El Cerrito resident 60 years or older can this free Richmond adult school. Registration on Tuesdays. Phone, Tuesday only, 234-2797.

Any West County resident can apply for training, and any adult can attend the free week.

#### Community Center

Monday, 6-9 p.m. at El Cerrito Community 7007 Moeser Lane. Program: first week, bingo; second week, cards and games; third week, luck; fourth week, cards and games. If there is week, special programs. For information call 526-7462.

#### Senior Citizens Club

Meets Thursday, 5-9 p.m. at St. John's Hall, Gladys and Lexington Streets. First Thursday, month: business and cards; second, bingo; third, observances; fourth, potluck and cards; fifth, grams. For information: 526-7462.

#### Sakura Kai Center

For Japanese-speaking senior citizens, first Saturday, 1-3 p.m. at 6510 Stockton St. Arts, exercises, ceramics, "shigin" (poetry singing) and security available. For information: William W. 7086.

#### KENSINGTON

Activity center, Thursday, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave. through Friday. Weekday drop-in lounge, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday brunch, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. (except May 1). \$1.50. A sandwich, cake and coffee are provided cents on the remaining Thursdays.

The following programs are scheduled from to noon: On March 29, Marva Brown will discuss Security.

#### OTHER CITIES

North Berkeley Center 1901 Hearst St., Berkeley, 644-6107. Open 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., gift shop open 10 a.m.

Regular activities include needlework, chess, yoga, bingo, singing, Spanish, Mandarin and lessons, walks, painting, current events, folk dancing, Jewish family circle, alcoholics support group, history.

Income tax and legal advice, by appointment throughout the month, call 644-6107.

#### Richmond Annex Center

5801 Huntington Ave., Richmond. Open through Friday. Weekday drop-in lounge, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday brunch, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. (except May 1). \$1.50. Other activities include gentle exercise, cards, service projects, needlework and games.

Monthly activities include a potluck supper is Donna Chavez, 526-3553.

#### St. James Center

St. James Senior Center, located at St. James Church, 1963 Carlson Blvd., Richmond. Wednesdays, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Craft classes (water color painting, knitting, flower-making) are taught in the morning, which costs 50 cents, is at noon. Afternoon program includes information, speakers, community singing, sitdown exercises and folk-dancing.

The program is co-sponsored by the Richmond School adult education program. Director is Isabelle Vitt. Call 524-4616 for information.

#### Voice classes offered

Eugene Jones, founder and for 19 years director of Berkeley's Community Chorus and Orchestra, will conduct a voice class, Thursdays 7-10 p.m., March 22 to the Jefferson Cafetorium, Sacramento and Streets, Berkeley.

Offered through Vista College, the class is free and open to beginning, intermediate and advanced students of all ages. Breathing, diction, phrasing and presence, as well as using Italian, Latin, English and man in voice practice, are among the topics covered.

Students choose their own music and, as well as work on a common song to perform in class.

Auditions and prior musical experience are not necessary. Register through Vista College, 2020 Milpitas Boulevard, Berkeley, or at the first class meeting. Phone 841-4000 for more information.

#### After school

#### classes

KENSINGTON — class openings: elementary age children. The Kensington School Enrichment Program held at the Kensington Hilltop Elementary School.

The next session runs weeks from April 2 to May 15. New instructors teach karate, tennis, games and a class covering reading, writing, drama.

Classes in pottery, ceramics and computers continue. Call 528-3070 for more information. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. or \$27-9873 evenings.

# Churches

## ALBANY

### Albany United Methodist Church

Sunday, April 1: The Reverend Virginia Hilton will preach on "The Courage to Love: Facing our Racism." Prayer and healing service follows worship. At 10 a.m., "Prayer la Difference Men, Women and God," with Dr. Bruce Hilton and Karen Hunold. Child care is provided. Monday, April 2: Bible study at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 4: quilters, 9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. For information, call 528-7346. The church is at 980 Stannage Ave.

### Berkeley Buddhist Priory

Meditation periods and services Tuesday-Sunday. The prior is the Rev. Teigan Stevens. Beginners' retreats: first Sunday of the month 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., includes vegetarian lunch. A gift shop and library are available. For details, call 528-2139.

Instruction in Soto Zen meditation: the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 7:30 p.m.

The priory is affiliated with Shasta Abbey, a Zen Buddhist seminary and monastery in Mount Shasta. It is at 1358 Marin Ave.

### Church of Christ

On Sunday: Bible study is at 10 a.m., worship at 11 a.m., with the Rev. Max Crumley, Sr., minister. Wednesday: Bible study is at 7:30 p.m. The church is at 1370 Marin Ave.

### First Baptist Church of Albany

Bible study meets Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. Women's Bible study meets at 9:30 a.m. Sunday: church school is at 9:30 a.m. Worship follows at 11 a.m. Call 526-6632 for information.

The church is at 1319 Solano Ave. Phone 526-6632.

### Gracemont Baptist Church

Sunday: Bible study at 9:45 a.m., followed by 11 a.m. worship service. Discussion hour at 5 p.m. is followed by a worship and song service.

Staff includes Rev. Glen G. Campman, pastor; Rev. Lope Torrez, associate pastor; D. Shayne Gilpin, minister of music; and Steve Beck, minister of youth. The church is at 1221 Marin Ave.

### St. Alban's Episcopal Church

Sunday, April 1 services: At 11:30 a.m., Holy Communion with the laying on of hands, led by the Rev. Warren Debenham. A folk mass will be directed by Jeff and Ellen Frost. Debenham will preach and be assisted by Nabil Yacoub, lay reader. Music: The offertory anthem, "Liber Me," from Faure's Requiem.

Ushers: George Coones and Alex Njoroge. Coffee hour follows the service. Inquirers' class meets at 11:30 a.m. The church is at 1501 Washington Ave.

### EL CERRITO

#### Bay Area Seventh Day Baptist Church

Sabbath (Saturday) March 31: Worship 10:30 a.m.; sermon topic, "The Prosperity of the Wicked." Sabbath school at 11:45 a.m. Potluck luncheon follows school.

The pastor is Rev. Steven Crouch. For information, call 724-0176. Services are held at the United Methodist Church, 6830 Stockton Ave.

#### El Cerrito United Methodist

Sunday, April 1: Worship at 11 a.m. Sermon: "It's Not Easy, But Go," by Rev. Philip C. Lawson. Communion will be served. Church school is at 9:30 a.m.

Scriptures: Psalm 23; Samuel 16:1-18; Ephesians 5:8-

14; John 9:1-14. Music: "Lamb of God," by Bizet, will be sung by the choir.

Choir music: "Break Thou the Bread of Life," by Pephel.

For information, call 525-3500. The church is at 6830 Stockton Ave.

### Grace Lutheran Church

Wednesday, March 28: Lenten service, led by Pastor Ralph L. Moellering at 7:30 p.m., is a continuing courtroom drama, "The People Against Jesus of Nazareth."

Sunday, April 1: Adult Bible class and Sunday school each meet from 9:30 a.m. At 10 a.m. worship, Moellering's service will be "The Obedience of Faith" from Mathew 26:39-41. Coffee/fellowship precedes the public forum. Forum subject: "Rape: A Feminist Viewpoint."

Holy Communion is administered the second and fourth Sunday of each month.

Wednesday, March 28: At 12:30 p.m. Albany-El Cerrito clergy meet. Choir rehearsal follows the Lenten service. Monday, April 2: Board of elders meets at 7:30 p.m.

For information, call 525-9004 mornings or 549-0858 afternoons. The church is at 15 Santa Fe Ave.

### Hillside Community Church

Sundays at 11 a.m.: informal fireside service, led by Dr. Horand Gutfeld. For information, call 525-1462. The church is at 1422 Navelier St.

### Mira Vista United Church of Christ

For information, call 234-0110. The church is at 7075 Cutting Blvd.

### Northminster Presbyterian Church

Phone 524-4401. The church is at 545 Ashbury Ave.

### St. Patrick's Episcopal Church

Call 237-0216. The church is at Potrero and Everett streets.

### KENSINGTON

#### Arlington Community Church

Sunday, April 1: Service led by the Rev. Ken Barnes, "The Crucifiers: Pilate," from Psalm 67 and Matthew 27:11-16; new members received at 10 a.m.; Sunday school at 10 a.m.; child care provided; coffee hour at 11:15 a.m.

At 6 p.m., meditation and healing; at 7 p.m. junior and senior high school fellowships.

Wednesdays: Potluck supper at 6:15 p.m.; informal family worship at 6:45 p.m., led by Rev. Linda McFadden with piano accompaniment by Helen Wiley.

The church is at 52 Arlington Ave.

### First Unitarian Church

Saturday, March 30: musical revue at 7:30 p.m. Featured: Bill Bell and the New Traveling Voices, directed by Jackie Hearst.

Sunday, April 1: Service at 11 a.m. led by Dr. Richard Boeke, "April Fool: Individual Sanity in an Insane World." Choir music: four Effinger pieces: "No Mark," "Noon," "Basket" and "Wood."

Early Sunday worship: 8:30 a.m. led by Jon Ehlers, "Look and See What You Can Do Now." Adult forum meets at 9:30 a.m. to discuss ethics, led by Janet Souden. Child care available at 9:30 a.m.

Photo show of work of Lois Lucking Barnes noon to 3 p.m. in the Fireside room.

Tuesday, April 3: At 7:30 p.m., the Rev. Jacob Trapp



**A COOK'S TOUR** — Chef Mark Miller of the Fourth Street Grill will offer an evening cooking lesson to benefit the mission of St. Mary Magdalene's Parish in Chiapas, Mexico. The lesson, which will be presented on April 10 and repeated the following evening, will feature a complete menu of some of the favorites from the Grill. The classes, from 7 to 10 p.m., will include wine, a tasting of the menu, and printed recipes. Tax deductible contribution is \$30. For reservations, call 526-4811 or mail your check to 2005 Berryman, Berkeley, 94709.

shua Chen will play the piano, Wei Li, the organ. Coffee time follows the service.

Sunday classes: Intergenerational Bible study at 9:30 a.m., led by John Chapman; at 10:30, children's classes. Wednesday: Potluck supper at 6:15 p.m., followed by Bible study.

Thursday, April 5: American Baptist Women meet at 10 a.m. Beverage and dessert will be provided, those attending should bring sandwiches. Meeting follows lunch.

Friday, April 6: Chinese and English choir rehearsals.

The church is at 1821 Catalina Ave., Berkeley.

## OTHER CITIES

### Chinese Rhenish Church

This bilingual (Cantonese and English) Lutheran church holds worship every Sunday at 11 a.m., with Sunday school at 9:30 a.m. The pastor is Dr. Hoy-San Lo.

The church is at 4709 MacDonald Ave., Richmond. Phone 232-1072.

### First Congregational Church of Berkeley

For information, call 848-3696. The church is at Dana, Dwight and Channing.

### Temple Baptist Church

Sundays: Sunday school at 9:30 a.m.; worship at 11 a.m.; children's choir practice at 5:30 p.m.; evening praise service at 7 p.m.

Wednesdays: Old Testament study at 6:30 p.m.; children's crafts at 6:30 p.m.; choir practice at 7:45 p.m. Fridays: Youth group meets at 6:30 p.m. Saturdays: prayer breakfast is at 8 a.m.

The congregation will take a snow trip to Sierra Pines on March 31. Advance registration is required. Call 525-9103 for information.

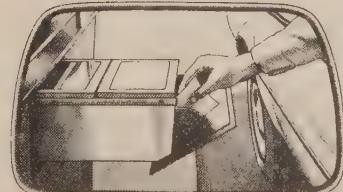
The pastor is Rev. Jim Sisco. The church is at 1960 Carlson Blvd., Richmond Annex.

### Temple Beth Hillel

For information, call 223-2560. The temple is at 801 Park Central (off Hilltop, at the entrance to Hilltop Green).

# 6 things to look for in a really handy Mechanic:

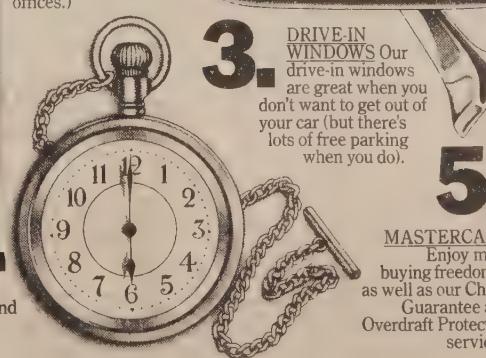
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ALBANY  
Albany police report the following incidents, among others, for the week ending March 26:  
• Police arrested Nancy A. Snyder, a 19-year-old resident of Los Gatos, March 26 and charged her with several counts of auto burglary. Snyder, who has been living at the Villa Motel on San Pablo Avenue, was arrested after police responded to an automobile's alarm and found her nearby.

• An AC Transit bus struck a legally parked vehicle in the 1000 block of Santa Fe Avenue, March 26 about 6:15 a.m. The impact caused a chain reaction and two other vehicles parked on the street were hit and destroyed.

• Three automobile

burglaries and one attempted burglary were reported March 25. A stereo, worth \$250, was reported stolen from an automobile parked in the 900 block of Stannage Avenue. A stereo and equalizer, worth \$469, were reported automobile parked in the 700 block of Carmel Avenue. A stereo, worth \$450, was reported stolen from an automobile parked in the 1100 block of Evelyn Avenue. An attempted automobile burglary was reported in the 1500 block of Beverly Place.

• A battery, worth \$65, was reported stolen March 24 from an automobile parked in the 500 block of Pierce Street.

• A burglar stole small items of jewelry from an apartment in the 400 block

of Kains Avenue and two gold chains, worth \$180, from another apartment in the same building March 23. The burglar attempted to break into four other units in the building, but failed.

• A 61-year-old man returning home from an Emeryville card room was the victim of an armed robbery March 24. The man was walking about 3 a.m. in the 500 block of Pierce Street, when the robber called out "Keep quiet or I'll shoot you." The robber escaped with an unknown amount of money.

• A Santa Cruz wooden skateboard, worth \$100, was reported stolen March 23 from a locker at Albany High School on Key Route Boulevard.

• A 14-year-old Albany girl and several girlfriends were caught about 10 p.m. on March 23 drinking beer near the Marin School playground on Marin Avenue. The alcohol was confiscated and the underaged group sent home with a warning.

• Jewelry, worth \$1,775, was reported stolen March 22 from an apartment in the 500 block of Pierce Street.

• A stereo and speakers, worth \$600, were reported stolen March 22 from an apartment building garage in the 700 block of Calhoun Street.

• A china dish set was reported stolen March 21 from the storage room of an apartment building in the 400 block of Cornell Avenue.

• A 30-year-old Albany woman, driving in the 900 block of Stannage Avenue, reported March 20 passing a man who exposed himself.

• A cassette stereo, worth \$280, was reported stolen March 19 from the 1000 block of Santa Fe Avenue.

There were 15 adult arrests.

## FL CERRITO

El Cerrito police reported the following incidents, among others, for the week ending March 25:

• On March 24, a burglar used a pry tool to break into a home in the 6200 block of Cypress Avenue. The intruder took \$489 in stereo equipment and a clothes hamper in which to

carry it.

• At El Cerrito High School, a 10-year-old Richmond boy took a \$100 skateboard from the locker of another boy on March 21.

• Two men, armed with handguns, robbed the Bing Duong Market, 11065 San Pablo Ave., on March 18. "Turn around and face the wall," one said. They escaped with \$1,696. Employees said the men were Asians, 18 to 21, who spoke "pure" Vietnamese. One wore a star earring in his left ear.

• On March 18, a strong-armed robber attacked the manager of the Power Gas station on San Pablo Avenue in the men's room. The attacker, a male in his 30s, grabbed a wallet containing \$115 during the

fight.

• Theodore Bell, 42, Vallejo, was arrested at the Record Factory, 9999 San Pablo Ave., on March 21 for allegedly taking \$87.92 in cassette tapes without paying for them.

• Emerson Surskala, 38, was arrested for brandishing a knife at a 26-year-old Contra Costa College student on San Pablo Avenue. Allegedly he said, "Come here, b----, let me stab you." Also on March 19, Surskala was arrested for battery. Allegedly Surskala grabbed a 30-year-old woman and said, "I'm going to take you down the road." When she summoned her teamster husband, police said, Surskala threatened him with a knife that had a four-inch blade.

• On March 20, a cle, valued at \$1,000, was stolen from an unlocked garage in the 1900 block of Key Route.

• At the Power Gas station, 6009 Potrero, a tourist gave the attendant \$20 bill on March 19 and drove away with a gas change.

• Douglas Leiferle, 20, was arrested for shoplifting at Payless Drug Co., San Pablo Ave. He left the store with merchandise which had not purchased.

• Two girls, ages 10, who allegedly \$9.96 and \$5.98 from less, were arrested March 18.

• On March 23, a man threw a rock through a window in the 5700 block of Lassen Street, entered, stole \$850 in stereo equipment.

• Unknown vandals attacked a 1973 Plymouth parked in the 100 block of San Carlos Avenue, March 20. They tore off side mirror, scratched paint and bent the shield wipers. Damage \$200.

• In Canyon Trail, on March 18, a 26-year-old man was hit on the head with a rock fired from a slingshot of a 15-year-old boy. "I didn't see said the boy.

• An anonymous threatener threatened the Con Co-op Market, 1751 shore Blvd., with a bomb 1 p.m. on March 19.

• On March 19, the year-old Richmond, climbed in the window of his home in the 7200 block of Potrero Avenue and \$1,610 worth of jewelry was recovered. There were 15 adult arrests.

## Volunteers aid victims of cancer

The American Cancer Society in Alameda County offers CanSupport to cancer patients throughout the county, and it is preparing now to train volunteers to participate in the program. Each volunteer is assigned to one patient, usually someone older and alone. The visitors, by once a week, offer company and perhaps assistance in running errands.

To join, call the Alameda County Unit of the American Cancer Society at 832-7012.

New volunteers will attend three evenings of orientation meetings, March 28, April 4 and April 11 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. in the Unit's Oakland office.

## Repertory poetry night

The West End Repertory presents an evening of poetry reading, "The Bard Art," on Wednesday, March 21 at 8 p.m.

The price is \$3 general, \$2.50 for students and \$1.50 for children.

Tickets are available at the door. Phone 524-5244 for information.

For the Spring Equinox, four voices of the future, L. Kennedy, Paladini, Frederick J. Mayer, and Edwin Zimmer will their poetry.

The West End Stage at the end of Grant, near Rose, back of King High, North Berkeley will show signs of corner Grant. Free off-street parking.

## Musical mystery

"Something's Afoot" is a musical spoof of Agatha Christie mysteries, open at the Masquerade Playhouse, 105 Park Place, on Richmond on Friday evening, April 6 at 8:30 p.m.

Performances will continue Friday and Saturday evenings at 8:30 p.m. through May 12.

There will be two Saturday matinees on April 29 and May 6 at 2:30 p.m.

This musical was written by James McDonald, David Vos, and Robert Gerlach. The play is directed by George Johnson. Musical direction is by Peter Sicker.

Admission is \$5 for evening performances and \$4.50 for matinees. For reservations, call 526-1038.

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Classified liners are taken up until 5 p.m. for publication in the following day's paper.

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gray & black stripe.  
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Reward: 524-7828

 JACK cat, San Jose  
Richmond Annex,  
old, very bony &  
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 FOUND pet bird.  
Cousin near Solano.  
526-5815.

 small white female,  
Lassen & Garvin Rich-  
mond, 237-7569

 FOUND large gray-cheek  
parakeet, Berk. Hills,  
March 21. Eves.

 FOUND young female  
parakeet, San Pablo Sun-  
day, 237-4473

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panoramic and bay view

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**HEATING**

**AIR CONDITION**



Bubbles O'Brian was seen in the bar just before the murder

Times Journal photo by Debra Jensen



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**More on Mayfair murder case**

EL CERRITO — Suspicion has fallen on Bubbles O'Brian as investigation continues on the Mayfest Caper, an imaginary murder mystery enacted in real locations.

Reliable sources in the department said that Lt. Garibaldi Fahrquahar of Homicide has found incriminating evidence in the getaway car, a stolen vehicle which police recovered last night in Tilden Park.

A half-pack of cigarettes on the floor of the car and an ashtray full of butts proved to be "Harem Nights," a rare Turkish blend habitually smoked by O'Brian. Traces of lipstick were found on the butts.

A photograph taken shortly before the murder shows O'Brian on the scene, near the murderer. O'Brian is currently running the lucrative "Red House," previously controlled by murder victim Madame Moralsky. The house is located at the corner of San Pablo and Central, across from the well-known It Club.

Private detective Joseph G. Deco, formerly the victim's bodyguard and now in the employ of speakeasy owner Don Viale, disputes the official theory. "Bubbles is

cute, but she's not what we want," Deco said, "ing off a chain smoker who would leave a half."

Viale said the first person to guess the identity of the murderer will get a free dinner for two at the B Station speakeasy. The second correct solution copy of the "World Bibliography of Sherlock Holmes" by Dr. Watson, donated by Big Cat Books; third copy of "Bad Blood: A Family Murder in Mystery."

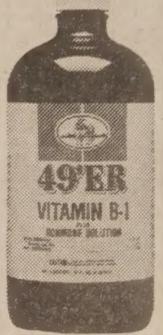
Deco vows he will reveal the solution at the Mayfest, May 12.

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